

February 26, 2020

Missoula Parks & Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tommi Burton. I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Open Space Bond funding for the corridor above the Barmeyer trail to the top of Mount Dean Stone (including the High, Wide & Handsome Trail).

I have been an avid trail user in Missoula for the past 24 years, hiking or running on them throughout the year at least 4 times a week (sometimes more) depending on the season. I go alone and with other people. Because I cover a lot of miles, I have utilized almost the entire trail system around Missoula over the years.

Here are the reasons for my support of the above mentioned Open Space bond. First, this new trail would provide me with another running/hiking choice close to where I live in South Missoula. Second, because the proposed trail would be less difficult than some of the existing options, it would be good for new users, families and senior hikers. This could expand the number of user groups. Third, this new addition would likely spread the number of people on the trail system into a wider area and reduce traffic density. Finally, I have friends who specifically come from out of town just to hike and run with me on the Missoula trails because they like them so well. This new addition would make the trail system even better.

Thanks in advance for any consideration you give to my recommendation.

Tommi Burton
306 39th Street
Missoula, MT 59803
(406) 240-1465

From the desk of Nancy and Geoffrey Birnbaum
4445 Quaking Aspen Court
Missoula, Montana 59802

To Staff at Five Valleys Land Trust

Two things we love about Missoula are the great people who live around us and the space around us that allows us to hike, see wildlife, breathe the freedom of our hills and see our neighbors on the trail.

The new proposed “high, wide and handsome trail” (the South Hills Spur to the top of Dean Stone Ridge) will connect us again to the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are privileged to live in a community that values this. It also affords free access to the natural world for many in our community who may not have the resources to travel to experience what we have in our backyards. As having been involved in Youth Homes for the past 45 years, we appreciate that those young people have this available.

This is a great opportunity and want to add our voice to those who are committed to this cause and I hope this letter can bolster their efforts. Missoula is a great community and will be even better whenever we add to it. Thanks to all for their commitment to the environment around us and the people who live within it.

Sincerely,

Nancy and Geoffrey Birnbaum
gnbirnbaum@msn.com

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the requested \$925,00 in Open Space funding to transfer 350 acres from Five Valleys Land Trust to the City of Missoula in the Mount Dean Stone Corridor.

The project will provide over five new miles of trail across 350 acres of proposed conservation land in the Mount Dean Stone Corridor and increase access and opportunities for multi-use trail users to recreate, connect to nature, and experience what it means to be a member of our community. These Missoula facing connections will serve not only as a showpiece of our valley, but also as an integral part of our lives. The multi-use nature of the proposed trails is an important facet, and as economic studies show, being bicycle friendly is no small part of those benefits.

The additional acres in the Mount Dean Stone Corridor will help local youth cycling groups by providing more recreational riding opportunities, while dispersing user days across recreational areas. I believe that our local middle and high school cyclists are an important part of the future of our trails. By providing access to multi-use trails, we will connect them to the land, and in turn create stewards that will care for these trails in the future.

With the benefits that this proposal has to the Missoula Community and it's youth, I respectfully support the requested \$925,000 in Open Space Funding (which Five Valleys will match with a 1.4 million in-kind donation) to transfer the 350 acres of land to the City of Missoula, and contribute to the very conservation that is in the interest of all of our community members.

Sincerely,



Sarah Millar
Montana Interscholastic Cycling League; Founding Member
Missoula Mammoths Youth Cycling Team; Coach, Parent, Volunteer



SAPPHIRE
PHYSICAL THERAPY

1705 BOW STREET
MISSOULA, MT 59801
(406) 549-5283
FAX (406) 549-5392

www.sapphirept.com

February 23, 2020

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

Open Space Advisory Committee:

The Mount Dean Stone Corridor includes 350 acres of land which Five Valleys Land Trust (FVLT) proposes to transfer to the City of Missoula to increase available Missoula open space. Five Valleys Land Trust is requesting \$925,000 in Open space funding, with FVLT match with \$1.4 million in-kind donation. As a member of the FVLT Mount Dean Stone Committee and open space user, I strongly support expanding and preserving open space around Missoula. Open space is a strong contributor to the quality of life in Missoula, Montana.

The FVLT Mount Dean Stone Corridor represents an incredible opportunity for the City of Missoula and Missoula residents to work in together to create additional additional recreational opportunities for a variety of users. The Mount Dean Stone Corridor is within the urban interface of the growing Missoula valley. Proposed trails will connect users to the landscape (High, Wide, and Handsome trail, House of Sky Trail), providing opportunities to appreciate the open space without private property restrictions.

The Mount Dean Stone Corridor represents a unique opportunity for FVLT, the City of Missoula, and Missoula area businesses and residents to work together to insure additional open space will be available to future generations.

Sincerely:

John Fiore, PT
Business Owner-Outdoor Enthusiast

Addrien Marx
PO Box 514
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406-677-4253 -cell
addrienmarx@gmail.com

February 27th, 2020

Grant Carlton
Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Grant Carlton,

As a resident and retired owner of Rovero's in Seeley Lake, my support of the Dean Stone Corridor may reflect a unique view from rural Missoula County. I have also served on the Open Space Advisory Committee in the past and am a current member of the Stewardship and Conservation Committee for Five Valleys Land Trust.

While living in Seeley for the outdoor recreation and access to trails, I and many others have business, medical appointments, family, special occasions and shopping, all involving travel to Missoula. We have discovered that the quick access to trails in Missoula very important, as well as the knowledge that the open surrounds of the city have beckoned us to explore and enjoy the area. I, personally, have purchased a second home in Missoula knowing that I can walk for miles, reach grasslands, forests, enjoy the landscape of the city below, view the snowcapped peaks in the distance - all within minutes of my second home in Missoula. That purchase was, in large part, due to the compelling trail system.

Especially, now with the long-awaited Mount Dean Stone Corridor! Paramount for conductivity and the uniqueness of a landscape that will offer so much for all, the property's present availability is critical. All the gears and energy to place the Corridor for our future generations are ready.

My endorsement includes a voice for my grandchildren and future generations. Please support the application for Open Space funding of the Mount Dean Stone Corridor. The investment will generate that special richness that make Missoula so very special and unique.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Addrien Marx', with a stylized, flowing script.

Addrien Marx

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

February 28, 2020

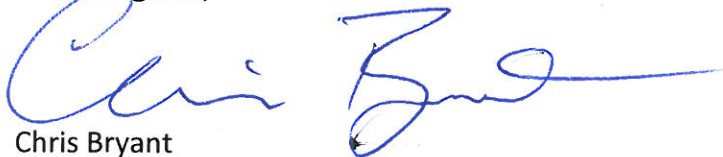
Dear, OSAC members:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy I'd like to urge your support for Five Valleys Land Trust's efforts with the Mount Dean Stone project. This next step is a critical one toward the overall effort and I hope the Committee supports this request.

The Mount Dean Stone Corridor builds on decades of successful conservation work surrounding the Missoula Valley. The Corridor enhances the conservation value of previous Open Space Bond investments in the South Hills Spur and the Barmeyer and South Hills conservation easements by expanding public access, habitat protections, and the ecosystem services these open space lands provide. The Corridor is forward thinking, as well, because it sets the stage for additional trail connections and habitat protection on Mount Dean Stone South lands to the south and east. The Mount Dean Stone South lands include 2,500 acres of land that The Nature Conservancy acquired from Plum Creek Timber company as part of the Montana Legacy Project.

Five Valleys is working with us and other community partners to realize the conservation vision for the Mount Dean Stone South lands which will include securing public access, habitat conservation, and protecting the property from subdivision and residential development. Conservation of the Corridor will build momentum toward successful completion of the overall Mount Dean Stone project, which will help complete a 180-degree arc of publicly accessible conservation lands around the Missoula Valley.

Warm regards,



Chris Bryant
Western Montana Land Protection Director

Western Montana Office

P.O. Box 8316
Missoula, MT 59807

Tel: (406) 543-6681

Fax: (406) 721-2191

nature.org/montana

March 3, 2020

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Grant,

We are writing to express our support for open space bond funds to assist Five Valleys Land Trust in their conservation of the Mount Dean Stone Corridor. The Mount Dean Stone Corridor will open over five miles of new trail route across 350 acres of proposed conservation land.

We support this project because it will provide needed trail resources in a part of Missoula that is growing rapidly. This project will provide opportunities for Missoula's residents to engage with nature, promote healthy lifestyles, and have positive impacts on community mental health. Access to quality outdoor recreation is an integral component of Missoula's quality of life and a keystone aspect of the experiential economy we strive to bolster.

One of our organization's primary goals is to promote economic vitality in Missoula, and we believe that the recreational opportunities this project will create have the potential to attract visitors from outside of the area while also enhancing quality of life for Missoula's current and future residents.

We believe the Mount Dean Stone Corridor project is highly deserving of being funded. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Grant Kier, President & CEO
Missoula Economic Partnership



February 12, 2020

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

RE: Five Valleys Land Trust's Mount Dean Stone Project Recreational Trails Grant

Dear Open Space Advisory Committee,

On behalf of Montana Trail Crew, I am pleased to offer our support for the use of Open Space Bond funds to conserve the Mount Dean Stone corridor. Our organization has worked closely with Five Valleys Land Trust over the past several years to develop a stakeholder-driven vision for the recreational potential of this valuable community asset. I can think of no better use for the community-supported bond funds than to safeguard this corridor and open new recreational access for all Missoulians. The conservation land acquisition and trail projects proposed by Five Valleys Land Trust will provide for essential access to open space and will serve as a key step in fulfilling the vision of the Mount Dean Stone Project.

Montana Trail Crew is part of the non-profit running club Run Wild Missoula, as such we are an organization composed of trail runners and we are dedicated to promoting non-motorized access to public lands and open space through trail stewardship. We see the Mount Dean Stone Project as an opportunity to develop an important recreational area for the greater Missoula community. It will give residents of western Montana the ability to run, bike, and walk along trails near an area of Missoula that is currently underserved by recreational access. The trails envisioned in this proposal will fill an important need for our community.

Montana Trail Crew considers it a priority to support this effort to deliver trail projects that create opportunities for the community to practice healthy lifestyles and connect with the natural world around them. With gratitude, thank you for your consideration of this project. For further information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at (406)546-4291 or by e-mail at jgrant@montanatrailcrew.com.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Grant
Montana Trail Crew
Missoula, MT

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

RE: City of Missoula Acquisition of Open Space on Mount Dean Stone

Dear Open Space Advisory Committee:

On behalf of MTB Missoula's more than three hundred members in Missoula's city planning area, please consider our unqualified support of City of Missoula ownership and management of the open space acquisition proposed here. This "Mount Dean Stone Corridor" will provide a unique and irreplicable asset for Missoula, and will create new and diverse opportunities for individuals and communities to engage with their public open space.

Specifically, this project provides a key access corridor for recreation and serves as the only feasible connection between the north and south aspects of the landscape and introduces an approachable and sustainably built trail to the city's infrastructure.

The Mount Dean Stone Corridor forms the only practical connection between the north and south halves of the larger Mount Dean Stone project. This corridor is a mosaic of seven private parcels which have been stitched together over the past several years by Five Valleys Land Trust, and present the only opportunity available for singletrack connections between the growing communities of Miller Creek and the greater Missoula Valley. This connection allows the existing Barmeyer and Sousa trailheads to serve a significant recreation resource as the larger Mount Dean Stone trails plan continues to develop. The Mount Dean Stone Corridor promises to set the tone for Missoula's next open space legacy.

Furthermore, this proposal includes the construction of a sustainably built and widely accessible singletrack trail. This is an essential component of the plan to the MTB Missoula membership and the larger trails constituency of Missoula. The existing trails inventory within the Missoula Valley tends to consist of singletrack that is very steep and intimidating, or more approachable forest or logging roads. While trails are at the heart of what make Missoula an incredible place to live, surprisingly few singletrack experiences are approachable by the youth, the elderly, and by inexperienced trail users.

The design criteria incorporated into the High, Wide, and Handsome trail are essential to the kinds of user experiences that are currently under developed and under served by existing trails in and around Missoula. These opportunities will only become more important as our community ages and youth cycling programs like the Missoula Mammoths and the City's own Zootown Deraillieurs continue to increase in popularity at an explosive rate.

The Mount Dean Stone corridor project represents the best of what open space can mean to the Missoula community as we look forward to the realities of our growth. This effort meets the needs of underserved trail users and takes proactive steps to ensuring a bright future for Missoula's open space program.



Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information, and I hope that the committee looks favorably on this proposal. Thank you for your commitment to Missoula's open space needs, and I look forward to this next chapter of our shared work.

Sincerely,



Bert Horan
Executive Director
MTB Missoula

PO Box 8233
Missoula, MT
59807

Missoula Parks and Recreation
Open Space Advisory Committee
Attn: Grant Carlton
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802

March 2, 2020

Dear OSAC:

I write this letter with great excitement and enthusiasm about the opportunity that is before you. The Mount Dean Stone project has been in the works for many years. It started when a small group of smart and passionate conservationists poured over maps and decided the land connecting the front side of Mount Dean Stone to Upper Miller Creek should not be closed off to public access, which was proposed at that time. In an effort to protect important wildlife habitat, while also preserving the possibility for public access for recreation, the Nature Conservancy and Five Valleys Land Trust entered into a contract that would leave the door open for future community conservation of the land.

Five Valleys and the Nature Conservancy have been clear from the outset: to accomplish this ambitious goal, they would need the support and involvement of our community, state, federal and local government, numerous other conservation organizations, and private citizens. The City of Missoula, and this committee, now have the opportunity to continue as a central partner in the community conservation effort for Mount Dean Stone. City staff worked closely with Five Valleys Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and the many partners on the Mount Dean Stone Project committee to identify the key parcels needed to connect a recreation corridor from the Barmeyer and Sousa trailheads to the summit of Mount Dean Stone. This effort has taken countless hours of thoughtful planning, and the proposal before you today is the result of this hard work.

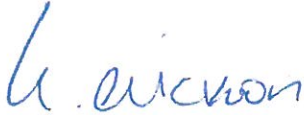
The Mount Dean Stone Corridor will open over five miles of new recreational trails across 350 acres of proposed conservation land. The proposed trail route will be accessible to a wide range of abilities and trail users, and will offer a recreational respite just on the edge of bustling Missoula. Open space provides myriad physical and mental health benefits, protects important views and vistas, and secures important wildlife movement corridors. This project will accomplish a host of goals of the City's new PROST Plan, the open space ordinance, and the 2018 open space bond. City acquisition of the 350 acres of land in the Mount Dean Stone Corridor will enhance the City's open space conservation network and add acreage to an important anchor area in Missoula's South Hills.

Five Valleys' request of \$925,000 is a significant discount from the overall costs of the project and the land. This project demonstrates the important value that land trust partners such as Five Valleys bring to each open space project. Now, City ownership of this land will allow the

Conservation Lands Program to effectively manage the recreational corridors and habitat in the South Hills, and provide access to so many of Missoula's citizens.

I strongly encourage the committee vote in support of the proposal and of City acquisition of the Mount Dean Stone Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a trailing flourish.

Elizabeth W. Erickson