From: vj
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Mount Dean Stone Corridor acquisition
Date: Saturday, November 28, 2020 3:47:50 PM

Dear members of the Missoula City Council.

I urge the Missoula City Council to support using Missoula Open Space Bond funds to complete transfer to public ownership of the 350 acre Mount Dean Stone Corridor. Assembling this parcel of land represents years of negotiation by Five Valleys Land Trust and civic minded landowners.

Once complete, the Corridor's “High, Wide and Handsome Trail” (along with the House of Sky Trail) will, for the first time, create a united trails network across the Mount Dean Stone landscape. The trails will connect open space areas on the mountain's north side with a 2,500-acre parcel on the south side of Mount Dean Stone managed by The Nature Conservancy.

Five Valleys Land Trust is seeking to transfer the Mount Dean Stone Corridor and the nearly complete “High, Wide and Handsome Trail” to the City of Missoula later this year. Five Valleys is requesting Missoula Open Space Bond funds to help complete the transfer, and will donate the cost of the trail design and construction.

This increase in beautiful public land is much needed given the tremendous increase in public land use near Missoula during the current pandemic. And even when the pandemic is behind us, the interest in outdoor recreation in Missoula will only continue to grow.

Thank you for helping make funding available to complete this worthy project.

Vicki Watson, Missoula Ward 3