March 24, 2011

Missoula Open Space Advisory Committee
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Committee Members:

Volunteers from Five Valleys Audubon Society conducted a breeding bird survey on the Boehmler property on June 29, 2010. We were happily surprised and impressed at the bird diversity observed due to the variety of habitats present. The property lies along a transition from conifer to grassland and supports a variety of habitat niches including wet Douglas-fir forest, riparian shrub community, dry and wet site ponderosa pine forest and grassland.

We observed 46 species including several species of conservation concern: Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Lazuli Bunting. Also of significance was a strong showing of neotropical songbirds including five species of warblers and a female Dusky Grouse with several chicks.

The outstanding wildlife values on the property merit high priority consideration for taking conservation action. We encourage you to recommend funding that will help in securing a conservation easement.

Sincerely,

Paul Loehnen
President