FIVE VALLEYS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 8425
MISSOULA, MT 59807

Natural Resource Damage Program Advisory Council
PO Box 201425
Helena, MT 59620-1425
RE: Buxbaum Conservation Easement Project

May 30, 2018

We are writing to support acquisition of funding for a conservation easement on the Buxbaum Boulder Creek property. On June 20, 2017 our Audubon Chapter conducted a bird survey on the property and observed an impressive diversity of species. The varied habitats including grasslands, conifer forest, aspen groves and wetlands makes this property particularly suitable for supporting a diversity of birds and other wildlife. We recorded several species of raptors, waterfowl and songbirds including warblers, vireos and wrens. It is noteworthy that we observed Northern Goshawk, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker and Cassin's Finch all considered to be species of conservation concern at the State or National level. We observed a large number of Vesper Sparrows and Western Meadowlarks that was indicative of a well managed grassland that supports ranching as well as wildlife.

We believe that this property that provides a connecting habitat link between the Flint Creek Valley and higher elevation conifer forest has significant wildlife values and certainly merits protection.

Sincerely,

Rose Leach
Chapter President