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

April 8, 2019

We are writing to support acquisition of funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Opportunity resources property as part of the Opportunity Resources-All Abilities Access project. Our Audubon Chapter did a bird survey on this property in July 2017, where we were excited to find outstanding riparian and old growth cottonwood and ponderosa pine gallery forest habitats. This location supports the best riparian and bottomland forest habitats anywhere along the Clark Fork River in the greater Missoula Valley. Noteworthy observations included several species of conservation concern; several successfully breeding duck species with broods of ducklings; a pair of Bobolinks utilizing the wet meadow habitat, which is now unusual in the Missoula Valley; and an excellent shrub understory beneath the stand of cottonwood and pine that is attractive to migrant songbirds.

We believe that with managed access this area would provide ample wildlife viewing opportunities for handicapped persons and others without diminishing the wildlife values. The significant wildlife values and viewing opportunities certainly merits protection and management to maintain and enhance the wildlife valules. We urge you to support this excellent conservation project.

Sincerely,

Rose Leach
Chapter President