



Flathead Gateway Partners

September 21, 2005

Robert L. Sandman, Area Land Manager
Northwestern Land Office
Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
2250 US Highway 93 North
Kalispell, MT 59901-2557

Letter of Interest re: Whitefish Area Recreational Trail

Dear Mr. Sandman,

The Board of Directors of Flathead Gateway Partners is pleased to submit this Letter of Interest to indicate our intent to work with the City of Whitefish to establish a recreational loop trail generally around Whitefish Lake, much of it passing through state lands evaluated in the Whitefish Area Trust Lands Neighborhood Plan.

We have initiated discussions with the City of Whitefish about this project, the structure of a public-private partnership, and the creation of a transparent public process to implement this "Trail Runs Through It" project. We hope to complete a formal agreement with the city in the near future.

Flathead Gateway Partners is a Montana non-profit corporation established in 2004. We are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt corporation under 501(c)3 of the federal tax code. The mission of Flathead Gateway Partners is to work for collaborative, community-based solutions that support the Flathead Valley's economic transition and growth while protecting the core assets of clean water, clean air, working landscapes, recreational access, and vibrant communities. We value the collaborative process as the foundation for creating innovative solutions in our community. Our strategic approach is to facilitate, coordinate and initiate collaborative partnerships consistent with our mission. A particular area of emphasis is to maintain and improve public recreational lands and trails and to maintain working landscapes.

We look forward to working with you, the city, and interested individuals and groups to develop a high-quality recreational trail system in the North Valley. We welcome your active involvement and advice as we embark upon this collaborative project.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Thompson
Secretary of the Board of Directors

P.O. Box 1895
214 W. Second St.
Whitefish, Montana 59937
406.862.6722