June 25, 2007
Glenda Wiles, Administrative Assistant
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

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Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Glenda Wiles,

I have recently learned of the proposed action to issue a Mineral Materials Contract to Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department for the removal of rock at Lost Horse for a period of over 10 years. The excavation, crushing and removal of this rock are a threat to one of our most precious rock climbing areas in Montana. Expanding the rock quarry at Lost Horse will compromise and destroy the adjacent cliffs and trails that Montana climbers have enjoyed for many years.

As The University of Montana Outdoor Program Manager and as an avid climber myself, I educate and encourage people daily on protecting wild lands and natural resources. It is my strong opinion that this proposed rock quarry is a threat to many recreationalists and climbers alike. The Lost Horse climbing area is unique to other climbing areas around Western Montana in that all the routes are traditional or "trad" in nature. The routes are not bolted, so climbers must use their own removable protection to safely get up a route. This type of climbing encompasses the "Leave No Trace" ethic. Due to the orientation of the cliffs, all of the cliffs above the quarry at Lost Horse are perfect places to climb in the summer, fall and spring months of the year.

In conclusion, I believe the approval of this project will destroy and compromise one of Montana's great resources and am writing this letter to strongly oppose the proposition of expanding the quarry at Lost Horse. Please take the time to consider protecting one of Montana's great resources.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fricke

Elizabeth C. Fricke
521 Pattee Canyon Road
Missoula, MT 59803

The University of Montana

Elizabeth C. Fricke
Outdoor Program Manager

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