



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate the grand opening of the Barmeyer Trail and South Hills Spur open space on June 3

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In celebration of National Trails Day, the public is invited to explore the first new trail on Mount Dean Stone and the City's new South Hills Spur Open Space on Sunday, June 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Five Valleys Land Trust and the City of Missoula, in partnership with REI and MTB Missoula, will host the grand opening of the 1.5-mile Barmeyer Trail, located on the foothills of Mount Dean Stone, within the City's South Hills Spur Open Space. The new trail loops through Pattee Canyon's ponderosa pine and western larch forest on land donated to the City by the Barmeyer family in 2016 and protected using open space bond funds.

The Barmeyer Trail and the South Hills Spur Open Space are part of the larger Mount Dean Stone Project—a multi-phased community initiative to create new protected open space and public recreation opportunities on more than 4,200 acres above Missoula's southside neighborhoods. The effort seeks to create a connected complex of open space lands between Pattee Canyon and Miller Creek.

Mount Dean Stone's 6,200-ft peak is located just south of Mount Sentinel and is easily identified by its assortment of radio towers. The timbered draws and grassy slopes of the proposed complex offers the community an opportunity to expand access to trails and outdoor recreation while protecting important wildlife habitat and mitigating the risk of wildfire close to the urban fringe. When complete, the project will create a 180-degree arc of conservation lands around Missoula.

The Mount Dean Stone project is a community partnership comprised of many organizations, agencies, and individuals, including: Five Valleys Land Trust, the City of Missoula, Missoula County, The Nature Conservancy, REI, Run Wild Missoula, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, MTB Missoula, Summit Independent Living, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, Montana Trout Unlimited, Providence-St Patrick's Healthcare, Montana Conservation Corps, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Montana State Parks and Big Sky Brewing Company.

The Barmeyer Trail is pedestrian-only at this time. Bikes will be permitted once additional trail connections are completed in Fall, 2018. For a map of the Barmeyer Trail and more information about the South Hills Spur Open Space, visit Parks and Recreation's website, www.missoulaparks.org. To learn more about the Mount Dean Stone Project, visit Five Valleys Land Trust at <http://www.fvlt.org/projects/mount-dean-stone>.

Event Details:

When: Sunday, June 3, 12:00-3:30 pm

Ribbon cutting at the trailhead on Pattee Canyon Road at 12:45 p.m.; Mount Dean Stone Project Updates and Raffle at the top of the Barmeyer Trail on the City's South Hills Spur Open Space at 2:30 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments at the top of the trail from Big Sky Brewing Company, collect swag from REI, and take home the first new map of the Mount Dean Stone project area. **There is limited parking at the trailhead, please use one of the transportation options below.**

Option 1: Hike the trail! Parking is limited – please bike, walk, or take the shuttle to the trailhead. Shuttles will run every 15 minutes from the Pattee Canyon gravel pit parking area, 790 Pattee Canyon Dr., to the Barmeyer Trailhead beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Option 2: Everyone is welcome! If you need transportation, take a ride to the top. The road to the South Hills Spur Open Space is private and is not open for public use, but a special shuttle will run for this event only. Meet at The Keep Restaurant, 102 Ben Hogan Dr., and take a shuttle to the top of the South Hills Spur beginning at 12:30 p.m. and running every 15 minutes.

Founded in 1972, Five Valleys Land Trust is a nationally accredited not-for profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Five Valley's mission is to protect for future generations western Montana's natural legacy—our river corridors, wildlife habitat, agricultural

lands and community open spaces. Their work has resulted in the preservation of nearly 80,000 acres to date including Mt. Jumbo, Alberton Gorge. Five Valleys office is located in Missoula at 120 Hickory St. Ste. B. For more information call 406 549-0755 or go to www.fvlt.org

The City of Missoula has been engaged in open space planning and conservation since the 1970s. The most recent open space bond, which was passed by an overwhelming majority of Missoula County voters in 2006, has supported a wide variety of open space conservation projects. The City manages over 4000 acres of conservation lands and public open space in the City's open space planning region.

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