

# LOWER RATTLESNAKE DAM SITE RESTORATION

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT



### Background and Summary

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a public open house was held at the Missoula International School to gather input on the Lower Rattlesnake Dam site restoration project. Representatives from Missoula Water, Missoula Parks and Recreation, Trout Unlimited, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks presented information about the proposed project and were available to answer questions from the public. A public questionnaire was also provided at the open house and subsequently posted online in order to collect input from attendees as well as other interested citizens. This report summarizes responses from the public questionnaire.

Key findings from the compiled questionnaires include:

- Overall responses were quite positive towards the project goals and assumptions.
- Respondents ranked habitat, watershed, and recreation as the most important project goals.
- Nearly 70% of respondents selected restoration alternative #3 as their preferred option. This alternative includes complete infrastructure removal and full restoration of both the stream channel and adjacent floodplain.
- The most important recreation goals selected by respondents include stream restoration, dam removal, habitat connectivity, and trail connections.
- About 85% of respondents preferred deconstructing the caretaker's residence on site for re-use with local partners.

More detailed results, including respondents' full comments can be found in the pages that follow.

# Survey Results

**Survey Name:** Rattlesnake Dam Site Restoration

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed, Online & Hardcopy

April 18th, 2018

**1. Please rank the project goals from 1 to 5, with 1 being your top priority goal. Use the comment section to list and rank additional goals to be considered.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Top Priority					Ranking Score*	
	1	2	3	4	5	Totals	Ranking Score*
EFFICIENCY: Minimize operational and maintenance costs for dam-related infrastructure and provide improvements to minimize long-term costs to maintain as open space.	10	6	11	21	53	101	4
SAFETY: Reduce and eliminate safety hazards, and related liabilities, related to dam infrastructure.	10%	6%	11%	21%	52%		
WATERSHED: Rehabilitate Rattlesnake Creek, floodplain and hillside to approximate natural creek conditions.	8	10	17	40	26	101	3.65
	8%	10%	17%	40%	26%		
HABITAT: Promote native habitat conditions, upstream passage and habitat connectivity.	34	35	19	8	7	103	2.21
	33%	34%	18%	8%	7%		
RECREATION: Enhance recreation opportunities in the area, while maintaining a balance with conservation goals.	34	40	16	12	0	102	2.06
	33%	39%	16%	12%	0%		
	21	14	38	17	12	102	2.85
	21%	14%	37%	17%	12%		

11 Comments - see 'Comments' Page

\*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

**2. After reviewing project assumptions, do you agree/disagree with the assumptions?**

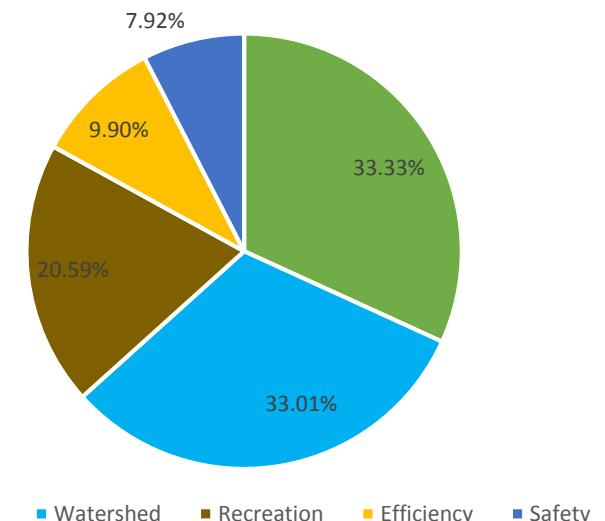
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Rating Score*
	5	2	59	33	99	3.21
	5%	2%	60%	33%		

1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree

\*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

Question #1: Top Priority Project Goals



Question #2: Agreement with Project Assumptions



**3. Please list any additional assumptions the Project Team should consider:**

16 Responses - see 'Comments' Page

**4. Four alternatives for restoration were presented. After reviewing each alternative, please rank the alternatives with 1 being your most preferred alternative and 4 being your least preferred.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Preferred alternative				Rank Score*
	1	2	3	4	
Alternative 1	7	5	13	63	88 3.5
	8%	6%	15%	72%	
Alternative 2	13	46	27	3	89 2.224719
	15%	52%	30%	3%	
Alternative 3	66	17	7	6	96 1.510417
	69%	18%	7%	6%	
Alternative 4	11	20	41	16	88 2.704545
	13%	23%	47%	18%	

\*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

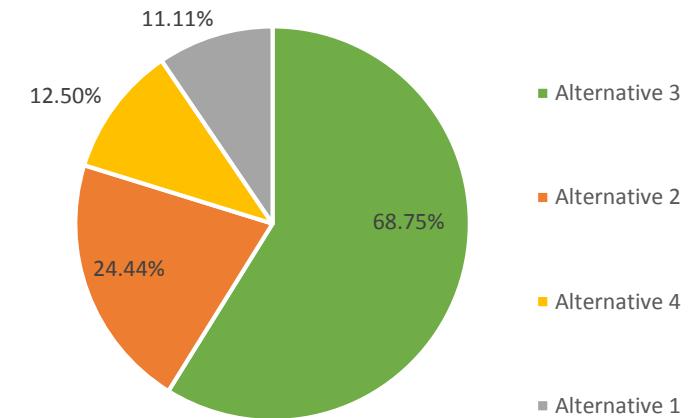
**5. Please provide your primary reasons for the alternative you chose as a top priority:**

40 Responses - see 'Comments' Page

**6. Is there another alternative that the Project Team should consider? If yes, please describe.**

10 Responses - see 'Comments' Page

**Question #4: Top Priority Restoration Alternatives**



**7. Recreation and Trails: Please rank the following goals with 1 being your top-priority goal. Please list additional goals in the comment section.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Top priority										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Totals
Habitat connectivity	28 29%	25 26%	16 17%	8 8%	7 7%	7 7%	4 4%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	96
Stream restoration	29 30%	32 33%	15 15%	7 7%	6 6%	5 5%	2 2%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%	98
Dam infrastructure removal	24 25%	10 10%	33 34%	3 3%	10 10%	5 5%	2 2%	4 4%	4 4%	1 1%	96
Trail connections from Lincolnwood trailhead to Rattlesnake Rec Area	9 10%	8 9%	9 10%	27 30%	11 12%	9 10%	8 9%	6 7%	2 2%	1 1%	90
New biking and hiking trails	8 7%	15 13%	12 10%	8 7%	19 16%	15 13%	14 12%	3 3%	17 14%	8 7%	119
Limit human access as much as reasonable	1 2%	2 3%	1 2%	5 8%	3 5%	4 6%	3 5%	4 6%	11 18%	28 45%	62
Maximize human access to the area, as much as reasonable	6 9%	3 5%	5 8%	4 6%	3 5%	5 8%	7 11%	7 11%	14 22%	11 17%	65
Minimize project costs (removal of infrastructure and restoration of creek and area)	3 4%	3 4%	4 5%	2 3%	5 7%	8 11%	10 14%	10 14%	14 19%	15 20%	74
Minimize long-term maintenance costs for the site	7 9%	3 4%	2 2%	14 17%	12 15%	17 21%	14 17%	5 6%	4 5%	4 5%	82
Use site for water quality and habitat education	2 3%	2 3%	2 3%	16 20%	16 20%	8 10%	13 16%	6 8%	10 13%	5 6%	80

19 Comments- see 'Comments' Page

**8. The caretaker residence on the site will be moved, removed, relocated, and/or repurposed in order to meet project goals and assumptions. Please rank your priority for use of the building, assuming costs are reasonable.**

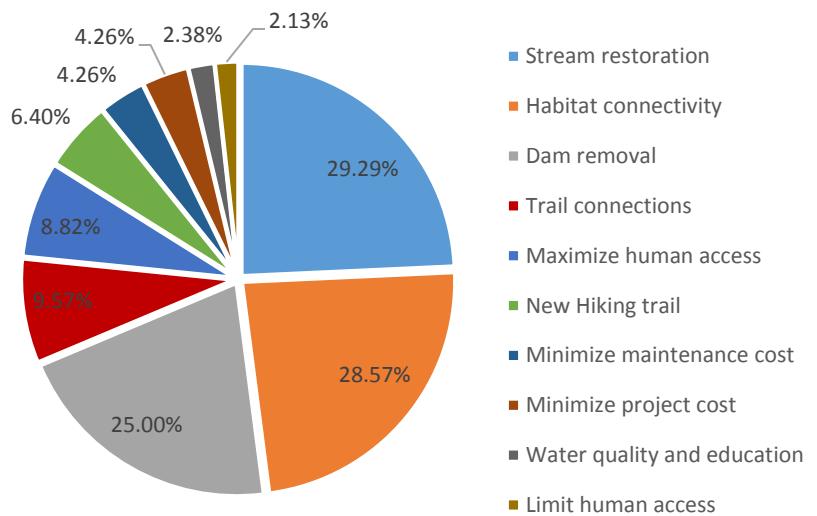
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Top priority		
	1	2	Totals
Education and support building in another City Park to be determined. (Greater costs for relocation and long-term maintenance.)	27 16%	55 84%	82
Deconstruct, through local partners, for re-use. (Lower short-term and long-term costs.)	66 84%	21 16%	87

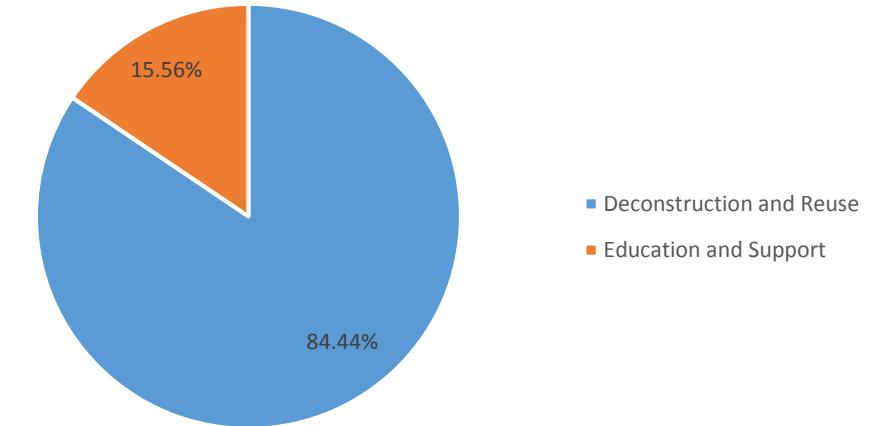
9. Please use this space for additional questions or comments about the project.

19 Responses - see 'Comments' Page

Question #7: Top Priority Recreation Goals



Question #8: Preferred Use of Caretaker Residence



## Survey Comments

**Survey Name:** Rattlesnake Dam Site Restoration

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed, Online & Hardcopy

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### Comments Related to Project Goals

I am most interested in a better trail connection from the Lincolnwood and Duncan trailheads to the main Rattlesnake trailhead.

Is this going to raise my property taxes?

Do minimum modification that allows fish passage

Let's connect river to flood plain.

I am for restoring habitat and providing healthy conditions for all wildlife. I am not for expanding recreational opportunities - the two seem at conflict. If we want the wildlife we need to reduce human use. The project was promoted to restore fish access up and down the creek. Hence habitat restoration/connectivity are my highest priorities, with cost to tax payers and safety/liability issues secondary (albeit cost is an important consideration); least important is enhanced recreation (recreational opportunities already exists at substantial levels, beyond which would degrade the project area and adjacent lands). Please remove the dams in the wilderness too. There are lots of Missoulians who are willing to help with that task.

These are not exclusive goals. To some degree they all need to be achieved.

Removal of the Dam would be a violation of the Antiques Act. That said I'm not opposed to removal of the gates leaving the basic structure intact. Since the housing boom has placed many homes above the Dam's location, Water quality probably has been compromised.

Full ecological restoration and a healthy, functioning watershed should be the primary goal and worth extra costs and time. Do it right the first time! Thanks.

As noted, the dam has been there for a long time. There is frequent mention of "safety" considerations - why? I'm unaware of any deaths or accidents at the site.

Work with agencies to provide true science to maintain stream flow in the face of global warming

Education, what an opportunity

Swimming beach

Education. This is a great opportunity for students to get engaged in the process from planning to final finished stages. Value the impact and input from our youth

Accommodate existing bicycle and ped path or improve it

Increase flood plain so downstream has greater protection from flooding

Please preserve or reserve this area in case we need a lot more water in missoula in the future

### Additional Assumptions the Project Team should consider:

Rattlesnake Creek and watershed should be naturalized

The wilderness dams have their own drawbacks and should be removed.

The project will improve access for people biking and walking in and through the area.

The dam will not be useful in the foreseeable future as a water supply for Missoula.

Existing: I see few numbers that show you have enough info to calculate the cost/benefit of this project. At \$15k per year currently, I doubt that Missoula Water or Parks can maintain new construction for less than \$15k/yr, w/out reducing service levels elsewhere.

New assumption: Ratt. creek is almost pristine. Restore fish passage and leave be.

Assumption that City must retain property should be reviewed. Donating the land to another public agency could be a better alternative.

Currently, wildlife does use this habitat, even if man created - geese nest on the cliffs above, wood ducks and mergansers use the pond regularly, otter, mink, and kingfishers use the pond for food. Bear and even moose have been seen in this corridor. Preserve this place for the wildlife, not for opening up more human access for recreating.

The Project Team should consider if enhanced recreation is really a need or just a selling point. I don't see any need, and would encourage no funds be directed towards that goal.

Disc golf course no brainer

The reason I strongly disagree is that I strongly disagree with "The project will be completed with safety and cost/benefit as primary criteria". I believe restoration of the ecosystem should be the primary criteria. Also public access to the creek should be highlighted and maintained.

Restoration of the dam will provide Missoulians with additional public lands which could be used to provide additional recreational opportunities.

Closing area to the public is not consistent with the values and popularity of recreation in the Rattlesnake Watershed.

Please do upkeep of the Dams in the upper Rattlesnake. They provide regulated water throughout the summer to support fish and the aquatic system. , Don

I did not see assumptions about use levels under the various scenarios, which will affect planning needs and outcomes.

The assumptions are fine. It's important that the City evaluate and prioritize the improvement of the health of the watershed, floodplain, and natural creek conditions. I think the health of the watershed as a whole needs to be a higher priority than will in turn improve bull trout habitat, recreation experience, and safety.

Consider Tribes interest in stream restoration

Failing to take any action at all is likely to result in a non-optimal long term solution to the site (ie catastrophic failure)

Given the first question about priorities and goals, it seems funny to have already stated/decided that cost efficiency and safety are the top priorities (though they should both be inherent to any operations

Long term water supply in case problems arise for/in aquifer

Population growth of the city and surrounding neighborhoods

SAVE the bull trout population!

Sound more like facts than assumptions

Swimming beach, leave pond.

That there is human habitation from the dam to Broadway St. That the plan should consider that the Rattlesnake creek is a part of neighborhoods and not exactly the same as creeks where few humans

The assumption that safety and cost/benefit are primary criteria feels like it invalidates/undermines this public input process, and it should be replaced with one that includes public input

There will be a few loud voices opposed to any changes

These seem to be goals

Turn the house into a community resource

With the proposed restoration will come additional use. Please include future plans to accommodate and/or restrict certain types of access in particular areas

Safety and cost/benefit are the primary criteria? AS mentioned above, the safety concerns seem exaggerated. What safety problems exist?

As for cost/benefit, the present \$15k a year is something, but not much for the city. Missoula attracts people because of recreation opportunities - let's think of something creative!

#### **Primary reasons for the chosen Restoration Alternative:**

1 and 3 provide more protection downstream

I think the priority should be on removing hazards for people with a secondary priority of restoring the creek as much as possible to a healthy state.

habitat diversity within floodplain. I actually think multi year project preferable. It would offer better opportunity to adjust plans to fit with observed conditions and adaptations  
If you do a project. Do it right the first time. Full removal.

please choose the alternative best for conservation and health

the city and partners should remove all infrastructure and restore ecological integrity to the site

Maximizes recreation and habitat restoration and minimizes ongoing costs.

Let's get this fully done rather than try a partial fix.

In addition to full infrastructure removal, this alternative seems to provide for more reconstruction and rehabilitation.

good long term investment

#1 option restores flow in creek with minimum disruption and cost

Outdoor recreation continues to be a major industry in Missoula- area could become a great addition. Also liked the reduced liability; and if you're going to go in to clean it out better to get everything out so there aren't more problems later.

spread cost out over more years. More partners may be inclined to join project

Option 3 does the best job of tying in with the rest of the creek. It also preserves more space for recreation and seemingly improves habitat the best. Options 1 and 4 are both substandard, but if that is the route we are going to go, then we should be open about it and pursue Option 1 as the cheapest.

deep water pool and downstream rehabilitation

It seems to provide the most natural alternative and a good buffer between the trail and the riparian area

Lowest cost while achieving goal of removing fish passage.

Removes infrastructure and allows fish passage and recreation. The channelized creek below the dam makes alternative 3 less necessary.

Habitat restoration should be main goal, not recreation.

Alternative two seems to provide the most restoration at a reasonable cost. I do not believe that the city can turn to the community to cover higher costs at this time because taxes (cost of water)have been increasing a lot over the past decade.

I think, over time, downstream enhancement (redistribution of cobble and boulders in the bed, logs, etc.) will occur via natural processes. Let Rattlesnake Creek do the work, and remain patient.

I can't distinguish between them-- it'd be nice to have that rec trail behind the NW energy property. It would also be nice to have some way to access the road on the west side of the creek that goes back

I think maximum restoration of habitat is the long-term future. However, I am disappointed that I did not see a trail for the public included in any drawings and if there had been an alternative with a trail I would have picked that. People will make a trail if you don't give them one, and that will disrupt the new habitat.

No sense in working to remove the dam if it's only partially done. The intent of the project is to remove annual maintenance costs.

I like the idea of returning the stream to its natural state.

Alt 3 has the greatest positive effect on aquatic and riparian ecology. Plus it maximizes recreation opportunities. Alt 1, if in the future there was a desire to do restoration work downstream, any efforts with this project would have to be re-disturbed because there is no channel or side-channel construction plus infrastructure is left on-site.

I like the options with the most room for recreation. I think one of the best things about Missoula is our amazing recreational opportunities and this should be a top priority. I also like the options that leave the area in top ecological shape. Montana is one of the most pristine states left and we should keep it this way.

Antiques Act

Returning the area to as close to natural conditions as possible.

All structure removal.

I would like to see full habitat restoration, primarily, and would like to have recreational access to the area.

Have you considered a phased approach? I would lead with alt 2, and as funding is available, alt 3 then 4 (in terms of project components/outcomes).

If the energy, money, and disturbance are going to happen, it is best to restore this place as much as possible. The long term benefits to the ecology and therefore the residents of Missoula will be worth it.

If you are going to do it, do it right the first time

Full ecological restoration to achieve a healthy, functioning watershed.

Recreation and trails maximized.

Habitat and watershed. This is the chance to do it right.

I think the top priority is to fully remove the entire infrastructure. The amount of channel reconstruction and the extent will then depend on funding. Alternative 3 provides the optimal channel reconstruction.

Alternative 2 is a good compromise if funding is limited. Alternative 4 is like the Cadillac version that may depend on funding.

Habitat diversity maximized.

All of the alternatives presuppose the removal of ALL dam infrastructure. I'm not convinced it's necessary. Is it inhibiting fish passage? I agree that should be addressed. Is the fish ladder functional? If there's a problem, simply remove just the dam headwall, or breach it.

Reverse the loss/function of r.c. habitat as much as possible

Cost retaining flood plain for future reservoir use if aquifer is compromised

Lets do it right! It's crucial to restore stream processes especially given potential for more wacky stream flows with increased precipitation and we have the ability (via TU) to really improve fish and wildlife

Return to more native/natural state

Best ecological health

It does the complete task. There is no reason to not do a complete job

If its worth doing, its worth doing well( such that it will last long term)

Its worth taking the time money and effort to do this restoration properly to assure the best results for future generations!

Provides the greatest long-term benefit considering the infinite compounding of benefit over a forever future timeframe

Good compromise - some restoration, but it lets the creek self heal and not as expensive

Fix it now for ever

Alternative 3 offers the most habitat restoration and potential for natural water storage and trout habitat

Restoring rattlesnake creek to best conditions for wildlife, ecosystem, and recreation

I would like to see this be park preserve

Most complete removal and restoration is the best alternative for long term habitat and recreational needs

Stream restoration

Rattlesnake deserves the maximum benefit potential as a core tributary to the clark fork and one that could never be replaced

Once in a lifetime opportunity - do it right!

Maximizes stream restoration

Most complete downstream renovation for habitat

One time money is needed so it is done completely

Restoring riparian habitat

Creating habitat for native fish and wildlife and increasing natural flood resilience

Alternative 3 seems to provide the most habitat restoration for fish species of concern

Do it right the first time!

Longest stretch of restored creek and riparian zone = greatest long-term benefit to people and wildlife

Full removal and maximum habitat restoration

Restore habitat to previous to dam conditions

Provides for full removal of infrastructure plus mostly restores habitat and not an extended timeline

Restore completely

If money was no object, the fullest restoration of both the stream bank and flood plain is preferable

It is essential that all man-made infrastructure be removed if a more natural habitat will be restored. Lets do it correctly

I think creek should be restored to its natural conditions. This is a golden opportunity

Habitat restoration, habitat diversity

Addresses need to remove dam/concrete, improve habitat, moves debris, river will restore self

Most natural state, best for fish

The restoration alt. 3 appears to be a more natural fit for the topography and wetlands are a plus. Also looks like the creek would run slower at high runoff times

Get it all done

Habitat restoration is my top priority/concern

It maximizes the recreational possibilities

Fish habitat and passage should be restored to predam conditions

Although most expensive, seems to achieve majority of project goals

Improves wildlife all around

This is a great opportunity and shouls be done right. Don't leave any potential liabilities (structures) behind

Best long-term investment - regarding fisheries and general habitat. In turn, that raises recreational values

Side channels - wetland habitat

Seems comprehensive and addresses future issues. Anything less will require future mitigation and very very expensive anyway

Flood possibility down creek minimized, habitat for fish, land diversity, increased floodplain - full removal of infrastructure

### **Other Alternatives that the Project Team should consider**

Include removal of wilderness dams.

Not another option per se, I would like to see natural surface trail included in the cross sections of the existing options.

Where is the "recreation" in any of these plans? How about a designated beachy-area to prevent conflict between swimmers/waders and sensitive new vegetation? Can't we re-purpose any of the old

The City land abuts USFS land. It would make more sense and be more cost-effective to donate the City land to the USFS, for it to be included in the National Rec. Area that already exists.

Do nothing. But I think that's a lousy option.

Remove wilderness dams.

Please connect the trail system to and through this stretch. Trails are essential or people will walk wherever and damage the new habitat.

No

Leave basic structure per Antiques Act but remove the gates

Options for keeping future needs for water storage in mind. A possible back up water storage option if aquifer fails

Do the best you can for all parties involved

Remove dam, leave pond if possible

I live in lincolnwood and am concerned about vandalism of partially removed infrastructure. Please prioritize removing all the old buildlings, etc. for pulbic safety long term

Extend the natural conditions of the stream below the dam for another mile

Ensure all waste is removed, not buried

This area should be part of the recreational opportunities on conservation land

Mimic natural stream course as much as possible

Really struggled with 2 and 4 rating them

I think the dam should be removed, but leave the concrete "backwater", as a swimhole for summer, and ice skating in winter. Please see below for detail.

### Comments regarding Recreation and Trails

The main Lincolnwood access trail is heavily used year-round and especially during the spring and summer. With the amount of mountain bike traffic (and cyclists sometimes traveling at high speeds) the community would benefit tremendously by having a pedestrian only trail for runners, walkers (with and without dogs) and children.

Make natural trails. No pavement needed.

Human access should be reasonable, but not the determinant of the project design

Not clear how you are judging long term costs. Seems that restoration is significantly more expensive no matter how you look at it. Unless you can somehow put a value on habitat, recreation, or streamflow.

What about recreation AT the site, not just recreation that passes through?

Improved trails and trail connections should be included in all of the options.

The City shouldn't expand its Parks & Rec function when the land is ideal for incorporation into the existing USFS recreation area. Donate the land to the USFS.

We seem to already have trail connections between Lincolnwood and Rattlesnake Rec area. I think it would be horrible to expand that and allow this area to become another opportunity for biking and running. Wildlife in this area need protection from that.

Goals 1-5 are my priorities, some of which overlap each other (1-3 seem interconnected). Keeping costs to a minimum while achieving the primary goals of dam removal and habitat/stream restoration. I oppose using funds to build more trails and trail connections (which seems much the same thing). There are enough trails already in that area; same for recreational opportunities and human use.

I would like to see some of the space used for a disc golf course.

### Disc Golf Course

Disc Golf Course opportunities. Missoula Parks and Rec needs to provide Missoula with additional free Disc Golf opportunities. It is a popular sport, that is growing at the local level. It is low cost, family friendly, and gets Missoulians outdoors.

### Disc golf course.

Public recreation access is essential and in character with other open space areas in the Rattlesnake.

Interpretation through signs at the trailhead and dam site explaining the history, purpose of the dam and restoration. and aquatic and riparian ecology is important.

Plan for a toilet at the trailhead at the end of Duncan Drive.

Design a 2-way ADA accessible trail from trailhead along east side of power station. Complete the loop with a non-accessible trail back to trailhead on west side

I would love to see a disc golf course put into the available recreational area. I know Missoula parks and rec has been looking at putting in a course and I think this would be a great addition to the city.

Blue Mountain is one of the best courses in the north west and another potentially great course would help put Missoula on the map as one of the top cities for the sport.

Again the Antiques Act still applies to this structure as it is more than 50 years old, Repurpose it to a visitor center at some future date.

I'd love to see a disc golf course designed and installed there. It could be a pay course as well, 5 dollars a day. Great way to bring low impact, non motorized community use. Contrary to popular belief, most disc golfers can coexist with other pedestrians and recreationalists. The sport is growing and the current courses are overcrowded, hence the heavy trail impacts at blue mountain and pattee

I think human access to this area should be considered with the ecology as the priority. I am not against new trails, but if the ecosystem would more greatly benefit from no humans than I would be in favor of limiting access to create areas for wildlife.

I think the watershed health should be number 1 priority and then costs (short-term and long-term costs). Recreational opportunities are great and appreciated as long as the health of the watershed and stream can be maintained and costs kept down.

We should certainly eliminate barriers to fish passage. But I don't see a need to create another short segment of pristine riparian habitat - there's miles of it all along the corridor! Missoula could have a super-cool recreation facility. Repurpose the caretaker building, as described below.

Trail connectivity on westside of creek

New trail between PEAS farm and Lincolnwood trailhead to ensure through-connectivity for rec trails between city and rattlesnake rec area

Balance between access and natural values

Beach access

Designate restored areas as "Park Preserve"

With wildlife habitat restoration, you must consider the increased impact that will occur again on those areas if you open it up to recreation. It will certainly be different pressures, but pressures nonetheless.

Disc golf course

Separate hiking and biking trails for safety

#### **Additional comments about the project**

Next, we absolutely need to remove all those other dams. I did not know about those! Now that I know, I will work hard to ensure those are removed. I will be relentless in making comments that those dams need to be gone. Am I missing something here? I cannot see any reason to keep those. I live in the rattlesnake and it bothers me greatly that the creek is blocked way up in those headwaters.

I would like to see the site restored. But I would not favor using the SID process to fund it.

I appreciate Trout Unlimited's willingness to provide expertise and resources. Thank you TU!

Is the removal of wilderness dams a reasonable consideration? Something that's been or is being considered?

My question remains: What will replace this water source for fighting fires in the Upper Rattlesnake area?

It seems the minimum cost would be to NOT remove the caretaker facility.

Don't support moving the residence- deconstruct all the way. If a park needs an educational building get it in there new and designed properly for the use- don't retrofit an old building with a bad layout.

I was a bit confused about what to think about this proposal. Concerns over safety, fish passage, and cost are not well laid out. Keeping the site closed to the public, and maintaining fish ladder seems like the cheapest, and safest option to keep connectivity.

I understand that if the property is to be opened for recreation purposes, safety concerns need addressed. I don't see any concrete information about proposed recreation plans anywhere, tho. Trails are great, but the Rattlesnake already has a lot of trail. Something to be said for habitats where humans can't go, re: trails on west side of dam.

If I wanted to recreate there, It would be nice to have a designated swimming / wading area where people are contained by infrastructure features, rather than spilling into natural areas as it does elsewhere. Can't we use some of existing infrastructure for this purpose?

Will future construction really cost <\$15k/yr?

Downstream floodplain: connect it but don't rip it up.

One of the project assumptions is:

"The project will not affect current rates for Missoula Water customers."

But nothing is mentioned about possible costs to City residents. Another project assumption should be:

The project will not add any assessments, SIDs, or other fees to City residents and property owners.

If the City is truly interested in public lands, then the parcel should be restored and donated to the USFS for inclusion into the Rattlesnake Recreation Area.

Preserve and enhance this wildlife habitat. Do not make this a place for recreation opportunities!

While I like the idea of using the structure elsewhere, a higher priority should be keeping project costs to a minimum while achieving the primary goals (dam removal, habitat connectivity/stream Thank you for doing this project! It's the right thing to do. Please use this opportunity to provide connectivity of the trail system. In Missoula's bright future, one could hop a bicycle from downtown and get all the way to the Rattlesnake on a safe, comfortable trail system that families and kids would not be afraid to use (cars currently make that unsafe).

Accessible trail east of power station should be located on bench using existing road for least disturbance. Include plantings and log placement for traffic control to mitigate visitor use impacts (bank erosion, etc.). Include benches and interpretive signs as well as a map in design.

One well engineered multi-use trail on east side of river is preferable and consistent with existing trail system to the north and south.

Disc golf course would be perfect for here. Plenty of space and very low impact.

Again I think this is a great opportunity for a disc golf course. A course would be easy to upkeep with the help of the local garden city flyers league and with the amount of potential recreational space it would still leave room for hiking and biking trails and other public access possibilities. This year in the zootown open at Blue mountain we have one of the most competitive fields in the tourneys history and I am so excited that multiple top 10 touring pros will be visiting Missoula for this event. Nate Sexton the #3 disc golfer in the world will also be visiting in July for a pro clinic so Missoula is getting attention as a hub for the sport and another course would be a great way to continue this trend and grow the sport while keeping the idea of public access to parklands alive. Thanks so much for your consideration

Removal Of the caretakers structure beside a violation of the Antiques Act. Would remove it from it's historical context.

We do not need additional facilities and their maintenance costs (Q#8).

Recommend a phased approach. Identify and fund priorities first. Identify and fund lower priority and nice-to-do projects down the line as funding becomes available. Do not incorporate the existing building/residence into any site design: we do not need additional facilities; teachers and local non-profits are already active in the area and can carry out education and interpretation activities on their own. Please don't overdesign for public safety or use: people are quite capable of finding their own way and using their own judgment on the creek. My children have been doing it on their own their entire childhood.

Thank you for your efforts in restoring and protecting Rattlesnake Creek!

Is there a way to preserve the concrete "backwater pool", but remove the dam, so as not to inhibit fish passage?

In the summer, it would be really cool as a shallow pool for wading or swimming. A public "swimhole", of sorts. You are no doubt aware of the many efforts by the public to create their own swim holes all up & down Rattlesnake Creek! It reminds me of the city of Austin, TX, which has a remarkable public swim facility created around a natural spring amongst the rocks!

In the winter, it could be a natural ice rink for skaters. You are no doubt aware of the popularity of skating in Missoula, the popularity of Pineview outdoor rink, and the shortage of ice time at Glacier indoor rink. Certainly here safety concerns would be important, but could be addressed.

The caretaker house could be a warming hut or changing room facility.

Obviously, there are issues with public access. I would think reasonable people could negotiate an easement.

Can we use any funds from stormwater or other Missoula Water funds to bond over long term to afford doing restoration right?

I am excited to see the dam removal and the stream restored. I would love to see a way to bike and running control in a well thought out way. I would like to see the access road removed once the project is complete. I would like to see this area be made park preserve!

Do the alternative 3 project

stream restoration - river flow - do it right the first time

Great project with tremendous biological potential! Public opportunity for appropriate use

Use [caretaker residence] as education facility at this site (relocate as necessary). This is an awesome opportunity to engage the public in environmental and conservation education. So many non profits and schools could use this property as a learning laboratory and outside classroom, creating the future stewards that the creek and our planet desperately needs!

Missoula needs more swimming spots

Revegetate with as many native shrubs as possible which will necessitate protecting them from deer for a period of years

Nice project - very ambitious

Keep priority on habitat, not additional or any human recreational use. Besides fish habitat, lots of opportunity to enhance wildlife habitat and corridor, as well as wetlands and riparian

I would like to see a trail near the restored creek bed incorporated in the initial plan. Without it, people will build their own trail, which is dangerous and damaging  
this is a project that will benefit the community for generations. Even if Phase 3 is not the choice it would be prudent to at least plan for it in the future years

I think the "Park Preserve" option would be wonderful. Alternative 3 looks like a great plan for habitat restoration. Alternative 3 might cost more than others but I think the community would generally  
Will the work schedules be posted? Will work start and end at a reasonable time for residents? Will the trail system be closed for the duration of the work or will there be some access?

Fantastic project. Get it done

Our community is vey supportive of natural resource conservation and education, please allow for some space to allow for gathering to educate; interpretive signage, outdoor classrooms, natural benches

The Garden City Flyers Disc Golf Club feels that in addition to trails, this area would provide a great opportunity to install a disc golf course

This project should attempt to put this dam issue to rest once and for all. Get it over with and let the area settle in for the duration. It's a lovely spot and I am up there a couple times a week.

Your presentations were "awesome" (not a word I use often) obviously a lot of hard work and thought was involved. Thank you all for your efforts!