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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007- 040

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR USE BY THE MISSOULA COUNTY OPEN LANDS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the State of Montana authorizes local government to issue, sell and administer general obligation bonds for the purposes of acquiring open space land consistent with the provisions of Title 76, Chapter 6, Sections 101 through 110, M.C.A.; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Commissioners passed Resolution Number 2006-093 placing a measure on the November 7, 2006 ballot providing the electorate in Missoula County with an opportunity to vote on a \$10,000,000 bond issue for Open Space acquisition and protection; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County electorate overwhelmingly passed the Open Space Bond measure on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Commissioners created the Missoula County Open Lands Citizen Advisory Committee (OLC) to review and recommend action on the expenditures of the Open Space bond funds; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Commissioners adopted an Interlocal agreement with the City of Missoula outlining the process for applying for and approving bond expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.6 of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Missoula requires the OLC to base its recommendation on bond funding on criteria approved by the County Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missoula County Commissioners hereby adopt the attached Evaluation Criteria and direct the OLC to use such criteria in the review of applications for Open Space Bond Funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF MARCH, 2007.

ATTEST:

Vickie Zeler
Vickie Zeler, Clerk and Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Michael Sehestedt
Michael Sehestedt, Deputy County Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY

Barbara Evans
Barbara Evans, Chairman

Jean Curtiss
Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

Bill Carey
Bill Carey, Commissioner

**LEVEL TWO-EVALUATION FOR FUNDING
MISSOULA COUNTY OPEN LANDS PROGRAM**

This form is to be used by the Open Lands Committee to evaluate a project for funding by the Missoula County Open Lands Program. The results of this evaluation will be used by each OLC member to support their participation in the overall OLC discussion of whether to recommend a project to the Missoula County Board of Commissioners for further review. Although a numeric system is used to evaluate a project proposed for Open Lands funding, there may be circumstances where the numeric evaluation system does not truly reflect the value or uniqueness of a particular project. The result of the numeric evaluation system is only a guide.

Please assign a High (H), Medium (M), or Low (L) rating to each project section and circle a numerical score within the given range. Total these scores for the overall rating.

Land Owner and Sponsoring Agency: _____

1. Site Description

Provide a description of the property that includes the following:

L	1
	2
	3
M	4
	5
	6
H	7
	8
	9

- a. Size of the property – total acreage and amounts by sub-ownership categories (i.e., deeded, leased, permitted public land, etc.)
- b. Size of the area to be included in the conservation easement or land purchase – total acreage and percentage of deeded land
- c. Permitted home sites – excluding any existing home sites, identify any future home sites that will be permitted in the conservation easement
- d. Water/Mineral Rights – identify any other rights appurtenant to the property and whether they will remain with the property
- e. Hazardous materials – identify any hazardous materials (as defined by the federal government) that are known or believed to be present on the property, both above and below ground. If the land is contaminated, please identify the contamination and describe how the materials can be removed from the property and the site reclaimed.
- f. Other Conservation Easements and Public Lands - adjacent or nearby existing or proposed conservation easements and/or public land that would enhance the purpose of this application.
- g. Commercial Activities – identify and describe any existing and/or proposed commercial activities occurring on the property

Notes:

2. Wildlife Habitat/Native Plant Communities

L	1
	2
	3
M	4
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H	7
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Describe the value of the property as wildlife habitat and/or native plant communities and identify the following features, where applicable.

- Critical or important habitat for one or multiple species (biodiversity)
 - Occurrence of endangered, threatened, or species of concern (state or federal listing) on the property or adjacent to the property.
 - Native plant communities of concern or importance.
 - Provides benefits at landscape scale for wildlife movement or migration.
 - Property size and use is consistent with maintaining wildlife habitat or native plant community values.
 - Adjacent property current or future uses are consistent with maintaining wildlife habitat and/or native plant community values.
- High potential for restoration of critical or important wildlife habitat and/or native plant communities.

Notes:



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3. Water Quality

Describe the value of the property in terms of water resources and quality, and identify the following features, where applicable.

L	1
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M	4
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H	7
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- Water bodies present of high resource value and quality.
- Water bodies surrounded by buffers of native plant communities.
- Provides benefits to adjacent water bodies (i.e., streams, larger wetlands, groundwater etc.) for maintaining water resource values and water quality.
- Property size and use is consistent with maintaining water resource values and water quality.
- Adjacent property current or future uses are consistent with maintaining high water resource values and water quality.
- High potential for restoration of high water resource values and water quality.

Notes:

4. Working Landscapes

Describe the value of the property in terms of continuing or restoring the historic land use (i.e., ranching, farming, timber management) and identify the following features, where applicable.

L	1
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M	4
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H	7
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- Project contributes to maintaining a working landscape such as ranching, farming, or timber management, where these uses have been the predominant historical land use.
- Property size and conditions present (i.e., soils, irrigation, slopes, etc.) will support the success of the continued or proposed land use.
- Adjacent property current or future uses are consistent with the continued or proposed land use of the project.
- High potential for restoration of historic land use.

Notes:

5. Public Access/Recreational Trails

Describe the value of the property for public access and/or recreation and identify the following features, where applicable.

L	1
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M	4
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H	7
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- Project maintains or provides new public recreation or access opportunities.
- Project provides an important existing public trail linkage.
- Project is located in an area where recreational access is encouraged by local plans or regulations.
- Adjacent property current or future uses are consistent with continuing public recreation or access opportunities.
- Property has the potential to be part of a community, state, or federal park or greenway system.
- Public access facilities (i.e., paths, parking, etc.) will be provided and maintained.
- Public access is not desirable for this project, if current and desired natural resource values are to be maintained or enhanced.

Notes:



6. Scenic or Historic Value

Describe the value of the property for providing scenic or historic values

L	1
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M	4
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H	7
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- Project is visible to the public.
- Property is classified (by a public process or government entity) for its scenic or historic values.
- Property contains important scenic or historic features that are strongly associated with Missoula County's identity and sense of place.
- Adjacent property current or future uses are consistent with maintaining the projects scenic or historic values.

Notes:

7. Other unique/exceptional value

Describe any other unique or exceptional features of the property that should be considered as open space values

L	1
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M	4
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H	7
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Notes:

8. Public Values

Describe the open space values of the property relative to public policy or programs (i.e., growth management, land use plans, community goal statements, land use regulations, etc.) at each of the following levels:

L	1
	2
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M	4
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	6
H	7
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- a. Missoula County
- b. Local/Community
- c. State and/or Federal

Notes:



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9. Proposed Funding

Please indicate if the funding request is for an outright purchase of the property or if it is a request for the purchase of a conservation easement. State the appraised value of the property and the value, if appropriate, of the conservation easement. Indicate the amount of county funds requested to complete the project to include transaction costs, if any. Describe the landowner's contribution and/or purchase terms, and identify additional funding partners and their contributions (i.e., proportion of total price of conservation easement or land purchase by partnering organization). Also, indicate whether partnering amounts have been approved, requested, or waiting for approval.

L	1
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M	4
	5
	6
H	7
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Missoula County Open Lands Funding _____%

Notes:

10. Required Supporting Documentation

- a. Proof of current ownership (deed or other applicable document)
- b. Legal Description that includes the proposed protection area and any adjacent land also owned by the Applicant.
- c. Map – provide a map of sufficient size that includes all of the following, where applicable:
 - Vicinity map identifying location of property within Missoula County's 8 planning regions
 - Property boundary identified in legal description
 - Surrounding property within a 1-mile radius of the property boundary
 - Area of the proposed conservation easement
 - Areas of deeded land, leased land, or permitted land (as applicable). Include the identity of lesser or permitting party.
 - Existing conservation easements on the Applicant's land or adjacent properties.
 - Existing houses, barns, outbuildings, fences, irrigation ditches, and any other substantial improvements to the property.
 - Proposed future home sites.
 - Areas of irrigated land and/or crop cultivation.
 - Water bodies such as rivers, streams, creeks, wetlands, natural vegetation areas, and important wildlife habitat.
 - Existing or proposed public trails or access areas.
 - The location of historic features.
 - Federal or state highways, primary or rural county roads or roads designated by local governments as important scenic areas.
- d. Preliminary Appraisal that is less than 2 years old and by a qualified appraiser.
- e. Letter of Recommendation from the Sponsoring Land Conservation Organization.



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SCORING SUMMARY

1. Site Description	_____
2. Wildlife Habitat/Native Plant Communities	_____
3. Water Quality	_____
4. Working Landscapes	_____
5. Public Access/Recreational Trails	_____
6. Scenic or Historic	_____
7. Other Unique/Exceptional Values	_____
8. Public Values	_____
9. Proposed Funding	_____
TOTAL	_____

0 - 27
LOW

28 - 58
MODERATE

59 - 81
HIGH

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