



PO Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904-9173  
[www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org)

October 27, 2019

Beverly Roedner Skinner, Wildlife Biologist  
Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge  
6295 Pleasant Valley Road  
Marion, Montana 59925

Dear Mrs. Skinner:

Flathead Audubon Society represents about 400 members from northwest Montana. Our mission is to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity; promote awareness and appreciation of the natural world through education and advocacy; work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues; provide community services such as school programs, work projects, and field trips.

We fully support designation of Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge as a Dark Sky Sanctuary through the International Dark Sky Association. Places to see and fully appreciate what a truly dark sky has to offer are becoming more limited as human development spreads across the land. Besides the star gazing opportunities in a truly dark sky, many wildlife species are adapted to activities in the dark and can be harmed by unnaturally lighted landscapes. Migrating songbirds are one example as unnaturally lighted areas disrupt nocturnal migrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposed designation.

Sincerely,

Gael Bissell, President  
Flathead Audubon Society