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FRIDAY

City Desk: 447-4071

NSIDE: IR DAILY PLANNER 8A

## ommission supports protection of Divide

Independent Recora

Lewis and Clark County packed into the chambers Several dozen supporters

passed a symbolic resolution commissioners on Thursday reading "Take Pride in a Thursday morning with tage

supporting the protection of MacDonald Pass from devel the Continental Divide and what they call a sensitive after speaker implored com missioners to neip protect Wild Divide," and speaker

course, and officials said a to develop the MacDonald est is considering a proposa decision is expected next Pass as a permanent biathlor The Helena National Forcial, serving as fragile links those threads become cruwildlife migration routes. and frayed to mere threads enuous link in Montana's wild country has been worn "Where the tapestry of

opment

Lewis and Clark County com-Wildlife corridor

missioners on Thursday

becomes diminished." wildlife. And Montana itself The Divide is used by

diminished habitat for

ing protection of the Continental approved a resolution supportwolverine, lynx, moose, elk, grizzly bears, wolves, deer and other species to move north and south through the region. "We have a treasure in

between islands of habitat

Andy Hunthausen said. tant to support wildlife cor our backyard, and it's impor threatened," Commissioner ridors wherever they're The resolution was for

equates to attrition and

lated, unavailable country gist Gayle Joslin said. "Iso become isolated and unavail that would otherwise

able," retired wildlife biolo-

Hunters and Anglers Associ-Montana Wildlife Federaation and supported by the warded by the Helena ion, the Montana Wilderness expense of taxpayers and a year, he said, at the the course for three months A half-dozen people may use

Association, and the Defend

Joslin said the biathlon

special piece of the Divide other residents who said they didn't want Helena's cross-country skiers and ers of Wildlife, along with a really a boondoggle," Stan number of hunters, hikers "This biathlon project is enough consistent snowfall to n't believe the area will get supposed to be, and she does course is actually several actually support biathletes. tion than such courses are hundred feet higher in eleva

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Frasier told commissioners