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July 2, 2026

Hans Oaks

Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, Helena Ranger District

2880 Skyway Dr.

Helena, Montana 59602

**RE: Support for Falcon Copper's Blue Copper Mineral Exploration Project
#303864**

Dear Mr. Oaks,

The Montana Mining Association (MMA) submits these comments in strong support of Falcon Copper's Blue Copper Project near Avon in the Helena Ranger District Lewis & Clark National Forest. Falcon is an MMA member company, and we believe this project has been responsibly advanced over the past several years. This current proposal is necessary to reasonably determine the next detailed steps necessary to support future decisions on potential development of the deposit.

The MMA is the trade association for the Treasure State's mining industry and has a mission "*to protect and promote responsible mining in Montana.*" Our membership is nearly 200 strong and includes mining companies with critical projects on NFS lands, like Falcon Copper's Blue Copper exploration project, included on the FAST-41 permitting list. Additionally, our membership includes many other companies with NFS claims aiming to target a suite of critical minerals, as well as a variety of the suppliers and supporting service companies that make Montana's multi-billion dollar mining industry thrive.

As stated in the first paragraph, the Falcon Blue Copper project has been responsibly advanced to date, including meaningful local outreach and stakeholder engagement activities over a significant time period. It is vital to America's national and economic security to increasing responsible development of domestic critical minerals projects. Exploration projects like Falcon's Blue Copper Project are absolutely imperative for advancement to creating a pipeline of potential projects for future responsible development. Another key aspect of value regarding the Blue Copper exploration project is that Falcon Copper Corp. is an American-owned and domiciled company with a chairman (Travis Naugle) who is a Montana Tech graduate. This company is proceeding diligently and appropriately with the Blue Copper project and is well aware

of the values important to American critical minerals supply chains and also to Montanans.

We urge you to keep this project moving with the approved environmental assessment. We are confident that Falcon will continue to engage with stakeholders to consider concerns and to perform all permitted actions thoughtfully and vigilantly to required regulations.

MMA appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. Please contact me if you have any pertinent questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MV", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Matt Vincent,
Executive Director