

Not read Oct 1  
Email to each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Roger DeHaan [rogerandnancy@q.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Comments on sign ordinance from Roger De Haan

Glenda: would you please give this to the Commissioners and have it entered in the record of proceedings on the proposed sign ordinance revisions. Thanks.

Commissioners:

I have followed with interest your deliberations on the sign ordinance revision. Please put me on record as being opposed to increasing the allowable size of billboards in Ravalli County.

The current size of 32 square feet (basically a 4 ft. by 8 ft. piece of plywood) are more than adequate to give essential information to travellers or people looking for a business. There are many negative effects of the large mega billboards you are considering, and very few positive effects.

The biggest concern is the "flavor" or business climate you are trying to project for Ravalli County. I believe that our County has a great chance for a future as a destination type area, not only for tourists, hunters, fisherpeople, skiers etc. but also for various conventions, sporting events, rodeo - basically any event that brings people of a common interest to a single place. And of course all these travellers bring business to our county.

But people, and the conventions and events they sponsor, prefer going to places that are attractive, easy to get around, easy to access essential services, and generally pleasant to be in.

A string of large mega billboards down our highways and byways will create exactly the opposite effect we desire.

To me a big billboard says "this place is for sale" and "the highest bidder can do what he wants". Plus they are highly distracting (when was the last time you drove Interstate 15 in Salt Lake City?) To me these are very negative effects.

Please say no thanks to special interests that want to get mega billboards into Ravalli County.

Thanks.

Roger W. De Haan  
961-3953

**Glenda Wiles**

not read Oct 1  
but emailed to each  
Commiss.

**From:** Wapiti Waters, Fly Fishing Montana [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Weighing in on the sign ordinance discussion

Increasing the allowable off-premise sign size by 2000% on the highway and by 1000% on all secondary roads is unacceptable to me.

At the last meeting you, the commissioners, indicated you wanted to hear from the people. I am voicing my opinion. 32 sf is absolutely plenty! 672 sf on the highway and 336 sf on all other roads is outrageous, horrible, wrong and out of place in our beautiful valley. The views here are priceless. We are smart people, there are other ways to be heard and seen besides huge atrocious, ugly signs. That is not the message I want to send to visitors and I do not want to see big, poorly done signs every day as I drive to business, friends and recreation in my home valley. Please do NOT increase the allowable size of signs at all.

Best Regards,

*Jack*

Jack C. Mauer, Wapiti Waters Fly Fishing Western Montana  
Montana Outfitter #867  
516 Chickadee Lane  
Victor, Montana 59875  
email: [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com](mailto:wapiti@wapiti-waters.com)  
MT Voice: 406-642-6548  
Reservations: 800-254-5311  
Website: [www.wapiti-waters.com](http://www.wapiti-waters.com) Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

Visit our original BLOG at <http://wapiti-waters.blogspot.com/>

not read oct 1  
but emailed to  
Jack BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Wapiti Waters, Fly Fishing Montana [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Weighing in on the sign ordinance discussion

Increasing the allowable off-premise sign size by 2000% on the highway and by 1000% on all secondary roads is unacceptable to me.

At the last meeting you, the commissioners, indicated you wanted to hear from the people. I am voicing my opinion. 32 sf is absolutely plenty! 672 sf on the highway and 336 sf on all other roads is outrageous, horrible, wrong and out of place in our beautiful valley. The views here are priceless. We are smart people, there are other ways to be heard and seen besides huge atrocious, ugly signs. That is not the message I want to send to visitors and I do not want to see big, poorly done signs every day as I drive to business, friends and recreation in my home valley. Please do NOT increase the allowable size of signs at all.

Best Regards,

*Jack*

Jack C. Mauer, Wapiti Waters Fly Fishing Western Montana  
Montana Outfitter #867  
516 Chickadee Lane  
Victor, Montana 59875  
email: [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com](mailto:wapiti@wapiti-waters.com)

MT Voice: 406-642-6548

Reservations: 800-254-5311

Website: [www.wapiti-waters.com](http://www.wapiti-waters.com) Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

Visit our original BLOG at <http://wapiti-waters.blogspot.com/>

**Glenda Wiles**

---

Not read on Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Suzanna McDougal [suzanna@wildblue.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign ordinance

To the Five Commissioners:

I'm very concerned hearing about the sign ordinance. I had the misfortune to be born in an area where bill boards lined the highways. When I arrived in Montana 40 years ago, the small number of highway signs were not enough to distract. I watch our Hamilton 2 lane tree lined road become 4 plus lanes and all the trees cut down. Then Highway 93 created the straight shot for Hamilton to become a bedroom community for Missoula.

Most tourists come here for the beauty of the mountains and to get away from the area where they have the misfortune to live and work among huge signs.

Many of our Ravalli County citizens worked long hours to come to an agreement that is presently our sign ordinance. Please keep it as it is.

Thank you,  
Suzanna McDougal  
381-5032  
Hamilton

not read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Marina Weatherly [cw@bridgemail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 1:42 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** 672 Sign ordinance: Read for Oct. 1 mtg!!!

I have just now received word that the County Commissioners are planning to change the County sign ordinance tomorrow, Oct 1 at 10:00. Please read my input below at your meeting on Monday, and place it on public record. Thank you.

Marina Weatherly, former Planning Board member and current chairman of Stevensville Main Street Design Committee.

**Public Input on changing Ravalli County Sign Regulations**

I strongly oppose increasing the size of billboards in Ravalli County. In the late 1990's, the Planning Board and commissioners created a sign ordinance for Ravalli County. This was done in response to the strong outcry of huge billboards that had sprung up on Hwy 93 corridor. We had overwhelming public input when we created the ordinance and acted upon it. The meetings were well advertised and we met after regular work hours so the public could attend. The main opposition to the large billboards had to do with the obstruction of the view-shed from the highway. The majority of residents of Ravalli County did not want our highway corridor to become like so many other places which have been visually destroyed by commercialism of this fashion. It was agreed that advertising was necessary for our economy, but that we could read smaller billboards perfectly fine, and have done so for the past 12 years. Why the change now? Who are we changing them for? Is it the majority of the public, or the out of state sign companies and a few large businesses?

If the proposed sign ordinance is adopted, this will adversely affect our local economy. Tourists will no longer be attracted to the natural beauty of the Bitterroot Valley and will hesitate to make this a destination. It will become like anywhere USA. We need to protect and respect the unique natural beauty, not destroy it. This would be short sighted and have long term negative impact on our local economy and impact the loss of esthetic quality local residents value, when they are bombarded by mega billboards as they commute on our highways. Please do not give in to gutting the existing sizes. They are fine as is. We can see them, we can read them and we can enjoy the view of the Montana country side and Bitterroot Mountains as we drive.

In addition, I would like to state that due to limited visible public notice about the proposed sign changes, and holding the meeting in the middle of the morning when very few of us working folks can attend, the general public will not have a chance to give due public input. I request that we allow more time for public input, let folks know in a transparent way that this is being discussed and hold future meetings about this subject when more of us can attend. Thank you, Marina Weatherly

**Glenda Wiles**

---

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** pjthomas101@peoplepc.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** signage

personally, I would like to see no signs at all outside the city limits in ravalli county, but for god's sake don't make them any bigger.

sincerely,  
patti jo thomas

Glenda Wiles

---

not read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Darlene L. Grove [skippy777@centurylink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Ordinance!

To Ravalli County Commissioners,

From: Darlene L Grove

I write to you not only for myself, but for my extended family. We are opposed to the proposed changes in the sign ordinance.

We supported the present ordinance in 2000, as we had just finished working with the MDOT on the widening of Highway 93. As a member of the Stevensville Focus Group, we were hearing from many residents of the county about the unsightliness of a proliferation of large billboards that were encroaching on the outstanding views we have from the Highway when coming up the valley. At that time, it was a natural follow-up to keep this practice from happening and surely getting worse. Although we still have some of these obnoxious signs on private property, our highway is still a very scenic drive.

We just returned from a trip to eastern Montana and was saddened by the intensity of huge signage along some of our highways.

I do not believe such pollution helps our business community, nor does it please out of state visitors. The only ones who might profit from this practice are corporations, big business and land owners.

I certainly hope, in your good judgement you will vote to leave the sign ordinance as is and better yet, to decrease the size of the signs.

Thank you.

Darlene L. Grove  
PO Box 77  
Stevensville, MT

**Glenda Wiles**

---

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to each

**From:** bandbl\_6@q.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 6:51 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** County Sign Ordinance

BCC

To our county commissioners.

I would like to express my opposition to ANY changes to our County Sign Ordinance. As a former business person, it is my opinion the value of these are negligible, and the negative impact on our landscape is undeniable.

Please do not vote to relax our current regulations. They are serving the majority of us well.

Thank you for your consideration. Ben Longbottom, Stevensville.

**Glenda Wiles**

---

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Mark Van Loon [mark.inthewoods@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 7:00 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** billboard size proposals -

I'd like to make an official comment for the record. I am using email because I'm unable to personally attend the meeting on Mon. Oct. 1, 2012.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed change to billboard sizes: 672 sf on Hwy 93 and 336 sf on ALL other roads. The idea is offensive and ludicrous. The 672 sf size is LARGER THAN MY HOUSE!!!

The good and thoughtful people of this county put in place the current size restrictions to maintain the beauty and character of our county. Tourists come here for the natural beauty and spectacular views, not HUGE billboards. If you want to really crash our local economy, this is the surest and fastest way to do it.

Please stop this insanity.

Sincerely,

Mark van Loon  
Hamilton

--

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." - Albert Einstein

Theodore Roosevelt embraced progressivism as "the highest and wisest form of conservatism."

"There is no them, there is only us" - Luis Alberto Urrea

**Glenda Wiles**

---

not read @+1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Karla Schiever [kjschiever@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** County Sign Ordinance

For the record: John & Karla Schiever are against increasing the size limitations for signs--the proposed sign size limitations are far too large. We feel it will destroy the beauty we love here in the valley.

Karla & John Schiever

704 Honey House Lane

Corvallis, MT 59828

Not read Oct 1  
but emailed  
to each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Jennifer Ogden [jfrogden@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Fwd: Billboards

Sent from my iPod

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ravalli County Commissioners" <[commissioners@rc.mt.gov](mailto:commissioners@rc.mt.gov)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2011 8:54:57 AM MST  
**To:** "Jennifer Ogden" <[jfrogden@gmail.com](mailto:jfrogden@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** "Terry Nelson" <[tnelson@rc.mt.gov](mailto:tnelson@rc.mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Billboards

Thanks for your email, it will be placed in general and commissioners correspondence as well as forwarded to the planning department as they are preparing some research for the commissioners.

Glenda M. Wiles, Administrative Assistant  
Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
215 S. 4th St., Suite A  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
406-375-6500  
406-375-6507 Fax

"May your neighbors respect you; Trouble neglect you; The angels protect you; and Heaven accept you!"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jennifer Ogden [<mailto:jfrogden@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2011 7:04 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Billboards

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

I wish to address the issue of changing our current sign ordinance by reverting to the less restrictive state regulations. Outdoor advertising is an impactful nuisance. Unlike more ephemeral print, radio or television advertising that we can choose to unsubscribe or turn off, we're stuck with some business owner's idea of customer engagement. I have never seen a billboard I'd rather stare at than the Bitterroot Mountains. Please don't lower our quality of life by cluttering up our commons with trashy signage. I hope you will consider our shared viewshed.

-Jennifer Ogden, Hamilton

Sent from my iPod

Ravalli County Commissioners

October 1, 2012

NOT read  
Oct 1 Out  
e-mailed to  
each BCC

It is my understanding that you are commencing the process of taking public comment on changing Ravalli County's current sign ordinance. In fact, there is a proposal to permit much larger signs on Highway 93 and other County roads. The increase in sign size on Highway 93 is proposed at a 2000% increase from current allowable size.

It had apparently not occurred to you, collectively or individually, that the primary, most reliable and consistent resource in Ravalli County is its natural beauty, its open spaces, its vistas, its openness, its access to world class fishing and hunting. These are the resources that bring people to the Bitterroot to visit and to stay. These people, numbering in the thousands, buy homes, buy groceries, buy hardware. We in Ravalli County don't have oil or natural gas or coal. Our timber resources are largely pruned and not a major economic contributor. There is some farming and ranching but we would be a sleepy blip in the road were it not for the people who retire here, who own part time homes here, who visit annually to fish and hunt. What makes our local economy work are retirees and visitors. I can count literally hundreds of friends, and myself, who have retired here or own part time homes here because of the characteristics listed above. Why do you think they come?

At one time, the Los Angeles area was known for its natural beauty. Now we have a constant influx of new residents from that and other blighted areas who are attracted by what we have. Your sign proposal is a major step in destroying what we have. Do you remember the 60's song, Big Yellow Taxi? "Hey, Paradise, put up a parking lot." That's what you will do if you destroy the very basis of our Valley's economic vitality.

There is a constant refrain in all this: PROPERTY RIGHTS! Every property owner claims the right to do whatever he or she wants on their property irrespective of the consequences to the rest of us. It is the aggregation of selfish, self-interested and short sighted actions that made Los Angeles what it is today. Is that what you think your role is? To permit the destruction of what we all treasure? The ability to restrain or eliminate signage as a proper police function of the government is well established. Yes, It is constitutional. The signage is a commercial speech, which can be and usually is much more restricted than other forms of free speech. Talk to any competent lawyer. They will all tell that you have the power to regulate, severely, commercial free speech. So, it is truly up to you five Commissioners. You make the decision.

As an aside, if I were an intelligent real estate agent or broker, a real estate developer, a shop owner, a fishing guide or almost any other local profession one can think of, I would oppose any enlarging of road signage. It will eventually kill off your customer base. The assets we can sell over and over are our open spaces, our vistas, our Bitterroot Valley. Please do not kill it off.

Very truly yours,

Richard Morrisey

523 Diamond 3 Road

Corvallis, MT 59828

**Glenda Wiles**

---

not read  
Oct 1 byt  
replied to  
each BCL

**From:** Patrick Brower [patrickmbrower@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 9:13 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** billboards

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to let you know that I oppose any and all measures to increase the size or amount of billboards in Ravalli County.

I'd much rather be able to enjoy the view of the mountains than pictures of meth addicts and truck ads.

Thank you,  
Patrick M. Brower