

Chris Taggart

From: dan@familypharmacist.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:55 PM
To: Ravalli County Planning; Greg Chilcott; Jeff Burrows; Dan Huls
Subject: [EXTERNAL] South Burnt Fork Ranch CE
Attachments: Melsness final hearing.docx

Dear Commissioners,
Please see my attached letter asking for your support of this great project. Thanks.
Dan Severson

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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3/2/2021

Dan Severson

760 S Burnt Fork Road

Stevensville, MT 59870

Ravalli County Commissioners:

Since I cannot attend your final meeting on Thursday about the South Burnt Fork Ranch (the Larry and Sheilah Melsness property) please accept this letter as my request that you support this awesome project.

In my letter of support at the first hearing I listed a bunch of reasons why this project is so important to our community so this will be very brief.

This property will connect other conserved property in the Burnt Fork so this part of the Valley will continue to be farmed, will provide open space for all to enjoy, will provide for the fish, birds, deer, elk and all the other wildlife that are abundant here.

It will protect our water resource that is so special to this area. As you probably are aware, all the creeks (S. Swamp, Robertson, Sapiel and N Swamp) flowing in the south part of the Burnt Fork drainage do not have a direct source to the mountains but start as springs. Many of these springs are on or near this property. The source of this water is from an under-ground reservoir that is fed from the mountains and North Burnt Fork creek. All this water flows both above and below the surface in northwesterly direction toward the Bitterroot River. This is the water that makes the Burt Fork such a great place. It is the water for our wells, irrigation, wildlife, fish and benefits all of us including the Town of Stevensville and the Lee Metcalf Refuge. This property is key to the protection of this special water system.

I want to thank the Commissioners, Bitter Root Land Trust, Open Lands Board and especially the citizens of our county who see the value of protecting open space and water for all of us, for now and into the future. Also thanks to Larry and Sheilah Melsness for their hard work and commitment to make our community the best .

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dan Severson

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