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From: Paula Nelson <sparkey@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:13 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Cc: pbackus@ravallirepublic.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Water quality and health concerns

There's a growing number of people living in old RVs these days...and fewer affordable rentals available in the county. I have a growing concern about the burgeoning number of old campers, trailers and motor homes at the Bitterroot Valley RV park at Charlos Heights. They've burst at the seams and have spread out to what looks like double the park's original size. Likewise, old RVs are popping up on the grounds of Honey Enterprises automotive/wrecking yard in Darby. They all look like they're lived in. Where does the sewage go? Where does the potable water come from, and how safe is it? And what about the safety of the electric supply? How many children are packed into these places and where do they play safely? No doubt these are not the only sites of concern in our county as people are priced out of Missoula and/or out of their Bitterroot rentals. Is the Sanitarian dealing with the health and safety aspects and is the Commission working on solutions. Do we have any standards/rules/safeguards? I'd hazard a guess that the USFS is finding that the woods are filling up with people living in tents and RVs...and their garbage and sewage. Perhaps there's an opportunity to work with the State, Feds and local businesses to find solutions long before too much damage is done. The situation will not improve on it's own.

Thank you.

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