

3652 Meyer Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

January 11, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

The acceptance of the land owned and operated by Carola Mielke and family, in the Burnt Fork area of Ravalli County, as a conservation easement that utilizes the Open Lands Program and associated money, is an important step forward insuring that their land is preserved. Carola's dad, Vernon Woolsey tromped the Burnt Fork area as a youngster, worked for various farmers later, and obtained a ranch of his own following his service in World War II. He and Maria (a "War" bride) raised their family on this same ranch from the late 1940's. Carola herself can boast of being connected to this property for seventy years. She certainly has thought and considered possibilities for the land and chose to cement her heritage for others to enjoy far into the future.

The proposed easement basically completes the conservation of the entire ranch that was originally put together by her parents. A major portion of the ranch was sold in the late 1980's. This land is already protected by a conservation easement. Now the land that Carola has can be protected. Once this is completed the whole property that belonged to the Vernon Woolsey family will be protected from development.

Please consider voting to accept Carola's application to move toward completion. Please allow the Bitter Root Land Trust and Open Lands Bond money to create a conservation easement that will benefit so very many people of Ravalli County.

Thank you,

Jay Meyer