

PRESS RELEASE: Public Land Solutions hosts In-Person Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Meetings in Ravalli County, MT March 7th & 8th

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For Immediate Release

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Public Land Solutions

The outdoor recreation economy in Montana has been growing and many counties are realizing their communities are motivated to improve, enhance, and develop outdoor recreation in the front country. According to the [Montana Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation](#), the Outdoor Recreation Industry contributes \$7.1B in spending and supports 71,000 jobs. It's the second largest economic sector in the state. Ravalli County is currently exploring the state of it's recreation assets and opportunities for future growth.

On January 11th and 12th, local residents and representatives from Ravalli County attended virtual preliminary outdoor recreation stakeholder meetings with Public Land Solutions (PLS), a recreation consultant nonprofit, to discuss current and future opportunities for outdoor recreation on nearby public lands. Public Land Solutions helps communities identify current and potential recreation assets as part of a larger, community based proposal to enhance the local outdoor recreation economy. Motivated by improving the health and resiliency of local communities to changes in economic sectors, Public Land Solutions also works to ensure that policies supporting that growth are put into play to preserve outdoor recreation assets.

As a continuation of this stakeholder process, PLS will be hosting three in-person meetings in Ravalli County on March 7th and 8th. These meetings continue the conversation started in January and everyone is invited to attend. Trends in visitation, as well as residents' ideas about improving current recreation assets and future opportunities for development, will drive the agenda and inform the recommendations PLS will make to the county in the coming months.

Meeting Schedule: March 7th from 5:30-7:30pm @ Bitterroot River Inn (Hamilton); March 8th from 1:00-2:30pm @ Frontier Cafe (Stevensville); March 8th from 5:30-7:30pm @ Bitterroot River Inn (Hamilton)

For more information about the stakeholder process or to submit comments please visit www.publiclandsolutions.org/ravallcounty (pw:ravallcounty) or email Nick Walendziak (nick@publiclandsolutions.org)