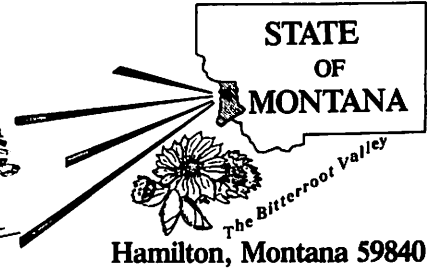


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT. 59840
406-375-6500
commissioners@rc.mt.gov

June 28, 2022

RE: Ravalli County Commissioner Support for the Bitterroot Front Project and Fire in the Root efforts

Dear Ravalli County Citizen,

The Board of Ravalli County Commissioners (BCC) thanks our citizens for being diligent in preventing wildfires in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and adjacent public lands. The threat of catastrophic wildfire is increasing as fuel loads continue to grow, disease and insects affect forests and recreation activities increase. Ravalli County has some of the highest fire hazard watersheds in the state and nation as identified in the Montana Forest Action Plan.

We have opportunity to help mitigate the risks and plan for catastrophic wildfires in our community through the following measures:

- 1) The Bitterroot Front project is a large project in the Bitterroot Range that will reduce fire fuels, improve landscape resilience to disturbances (insects, disease, fire), improve wildlife habitat and contribute to the local economy through jobs and forest products. This project will also improve recreational opportunities and watersheds.
- 2) Ravalli County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. The current CWPP is outdated (2006) and needs to be updated to reflect current conditions and wildfire risk in order to facilitate implementation of wildfire hazard mitigation measures.
- 3) Private/Public partnership to reduce wildfire risk in the WUI. Wildfire on private property has destroyed homes and left many acres of private property devastated. It is essential for the Forest Service to mitigate fire potential on public lands, but we are also encouraging our private landowners to take action to mitigate fire potential on private lands. Public land treatments alone will not resolve the wildfire threat to our community

and we look forward to working collaboratively with the agencies and our private landowners.

- 4) Ravalli County will continue to partner with the Forest Service, Fire in the Root, RC&D and other agencies to provide information and resources to citizens and landowners for fire prevention and mitigation.

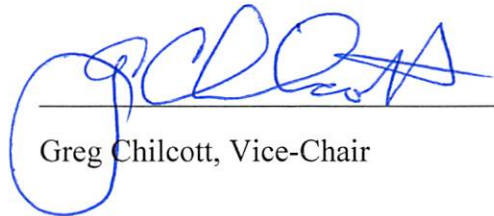
These measures, along with other fire mitigation and active forest management efforts will play a critical role in ensuring resiliency in our community to the threat of catastrophic wildfires. By working together collaboratively, we can mitigate the impacts of wildfire on our community.

Sincerely,

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



Dan Huls, Chairman



Greg Chilcott, Vice-Chair



Jeff Burrows, Member