

Public Comment

2014 Environmental Assessment

Ravalli County Airport

This document is my official comment and opinion on the current EA and preferred option as outlined. I will not detail specifics but instead I will give an overview and history as a basis of my opinion. I will first outline my experience and research on the Ravalli County Airport.

Community Airport Development was my specialty in the FBO businesses I developed and sold for investors in Colorado. The value of the FBO is directly proportionate to the viability of the airport at which it is located. I relocated to the Bitterroot in 1998 and began watching and studying the airport and FBO. In 2010, I interviewed with Hamilton Aviation and was hired as Director of Aviation. I built a fuel facility, developed the operational systems and developed a customer base. In 2011, I served as Secretary of the Ravalli County Airport Board. I researched all the players involved politically along with airport users and opponent groups. I have read most letters to the editors and have looked at the whole scenario of the airport and this community.

My research has shown that Ravalli County is unable to sponsor a complex infrastructure such as an airport and have failed to maintain safety at many levels. The lack of corrective action in the past forty years is evidence in itself that this community is incapable developing this infrastructure. Opposition groups fund legal actions in response to all proposed improvements and the Airport Board is run by a zealous hard liner. My estimate is 200K in legal defense cost for Ravalli County to defend this EA. My suggestion would be for the County to auction off the airport sponsorship to another entity with terms and conditions.

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