

Chris Taggart

From: AT <WindmillJouster@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CWPP

Hello all,

I really appreciated you asking for my input at the end of the meeting yesterday, but my microphone was not working. Not being able to hear me may have been a blessing in disguise for all of you.

For those who do not know me I am Erica Tresemer and I have lived 30 miles up the West Fork for almost 29 years. In 2001 I was one of the group of people who started Painted Rocks Fire District and Painted Rocks Fire & Rescue Company. I have been a firefighter, Squad Boss, Engine Boss and served a short stint as Chief. Now I serve as a Trustee on the Painted Rocks Fire District Board. I regret not getting to the meeting yesterday so I could meet the power behind the 2024 CWPP. Commissioner Chilcott has known me for a long time and can no doubt give you the real truth about my credibility or lack thereof.

I thought this meeting would be my opportunity to go through the CWPP section by section and have my questions answered. When I saw the meeting was only an hour long, I realized you had an agenda that did not match mine so I ZOOMed instead. I apologize for joining late and possibly missing answers to my questions.

I have read several CWPPs and even remember the 2006 document. It may have been the first one I studied. I was intrigued when you said that the 2006 report no longer serves the needs of Ravalli County. Any chance you could explain why or send me to this explanation in the report? They have always been hard documents to stay focused on and the latest one was no easier. The difference was that this 2023(2024) CWPP seemed to be written at a much higher intellectual level. Ah, but I do love a challenge. Really enjoyed the Story Map (my first). It was a nice summary and an easy read.

I have been going through the text of the document and would like to share some of my questions or observations.

I do not understand the insertion of **Biden's Executive Order 13985**. I feel this is the sort of thing that is destroying our nation. I have lived here since 1994 and was part of the foundation crew that started Painted Rocks Fire & Rescue Company in 2001. There has never been **any** discrimination toward **anyone** that I have seen while serving our community or working on mutual aid fires. I would really like more information that justifies:

"Low-income, minority, and other underserved populations have historically been excluded from wildfire planning processes and risk mitigation projects across the country and are often disproportionately affected by natural disaster events such as wildfire"

The exclusion from "wildfire planning" has always started at the top. Can't wait to hear how the "underserved" are more affected by wildfire than the rest of the community. I know large cities can be different but we take care of each other here, no one is left to cope with loss on their own.

Public Engagement and Collaboration

My comments on this section are: How did I miss all these meetings? When were notices made? When were the meetings?

I am not blaming you. We do not have radio or TV where we live though our internet communication is good. I am only a Fire District Trustee and this goes back to that exclusion thing we talked about before. I am no longer a Fire Chief or Firefighter but as a Trustee I feel we should have been included. How do I get on an email list? It may not be important to all of the Board members in the County but it is to us. Painted Rocks Fire District has always been

active in wildfire prevention, mitigation and education in our community. Please put my name on the list so I can stay in the loop.

My biggest concern is about the **At-Risk Communities**. It seems that the CWPP is really a tool for grants and all of the Fire Districts with small budgets really like to apply for "free" money. On page 18 you listed the communities that are At-Risk but it feels like Painted Rocks and West Fork Fire Districts are left out. We are not towns or cities but we are communities who live in the WUI and have battled some of the largest fires in the state. When you were discussing Fire History you didn't mention the Saddle Complex (26,915 acres from 8/10-10/4 2011) , Mustang Fire (149,828 acres, August 2012), Rombo Fire (11418 acres, 2007). All of these fires were managed from fire camps in either Painted Rocks or West Fork Fire Districts and both Fire Districts supplied engine support. I would rather see the **Fire Districts** listed instead of the towns. When I say this it is because over the past 29 years it was a rare summer when we didn't have smoke - usually from Idaho. Fire is something all long time residents think about from June til September. The Fires of 2000 (350,000 acres) showed us we needed a Fire District and that learning how to prevent, mitigate and fight fire was what we needed to do. And we did. I consider us to be At-Risk communities and we are at higher risk than anywhere else in the County except for Sula.

My other comments are concerning political statements made without facts, typos or grammar. The only other issue is the way the references were in alphabetical order rather than numbered and linked to specific sections. Then again that may be how things are done now.

Thank you for taking a few moments to read my contribution. The 2024 CWPP is much more complex than the others I have read and that seems to be the political influence. That is the way things are now. If this document helps us to receive grants in the future, reading it was time well spent. Thanks go out to all of you who spent time this past year putting this together.

Sincerely,

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