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From: AT <WindmillJouster@protonmail.com>
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To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CWPP

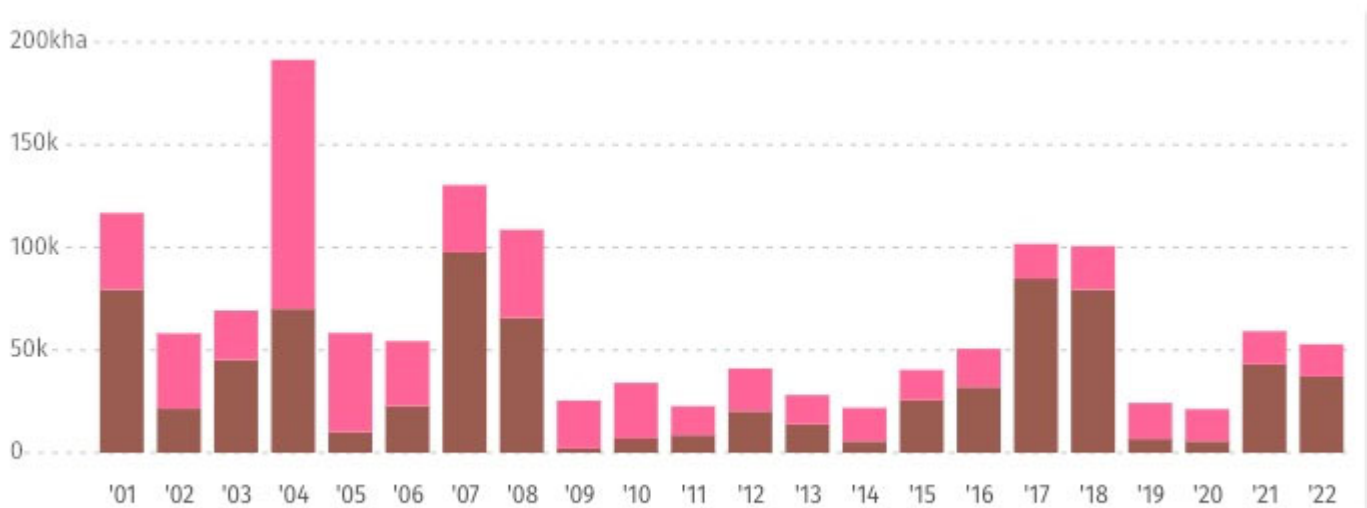
Commissioners,

Thank you for inviting feedback on the CWPP draft. I'll keep my comments brief.

Some of the references are not available. I searched for "Ravalli County. 2023. Fire History GIS Polygons" and find nothing online. What document is this? It is used to support the faulty contention that catastrophic fires are trending higher ("Wildfires in Ravalli County today are increasing in size and intensity.", "increasing frequency of catastrophic wildfire events", "Contemporary changes in climate and fire suppression policies have influenced the fire regime in lodgepole pine forests, enabling more frequent fires than have historically been present"). I would like to see the basis for such statements. The Draft ignores the big fires of the past (10-20 years ago) and points to the small fires of the last ten years as proof of a trend upwards.

My 30 years living here and working in the fire industry tell me otherwise. As a chief, I've had more project "catastrophic" fires at the south end of the valley than any other fire district. It's been very quiet for the last ten years. The USFS suggests fire frequency and acres burned throughout the Bitterroot have been on a clear downtrend for decades.

A graph of acres burned per year in the last 50 years would tell an interesting story. The best I could find was "Loss of tree canopy due to fire, Montana" which does not include grass and brush fires, but it gives an idea of fire activity over time. I am sure DNRC and USFS have a better graph for Ravalli County.



>30% tree canopy

Perhaps if I could see the document Ravalli County 2023, I might be illuminated. Or maybe the USFS data could be used instead.

Vague references are made to climate change, but there is no referenced support for this. There is no clear trend (<https://weatherspark.com/h/y/2327/2012/Historical-Weather-during-2012-in-Hamilton-Montana-United-States#Figures-Temperature>) for warmer temperatures in Hamilton over the last twenty years. There is NOAA support that suggests a long term cooling. But according to <https://fireecology.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s42408-022-00129-4> the main driver of fires is fuel loading. Perhaps the CWPP can put the emphasis there.

Thank you,

Alan Tresemer, Fire Chief, ret.

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