

Glenda Wiles

From: jsnelson414@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2014 2:03 PM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com; Glenda Wiles
Subject: Ravalli County Airport - Comments

Please move forward with the Ravalli County Airport improvement.

1. Environmental - There is no comparison - the number one environmental issue facing the Bitterroot Valley is air pollution- submicron particles from FOREST FIRES. All other sources are insignificant in comparison. Fighting forest fires almost always occurs on hot days making the current runway insufficient for the most common fire fighting airplanes. And, solely relying on helicopters is wrong because they are more expensive, less efficient, and less available.
2. Economy - Forest fires remain a significant impediment to the Bitterroot valley growth. Who wants to live in a area where the air is hazardous for 6 to 8 weeks or where their house is threatened. Maintaining a local capacity to fight the fires is essential.
3. Public safety - having an airport provides an important rapid response capability.
- 3) Tax base - The Bitterroot Valley is not easily accessible. The airport is essential for making access easy for the some of the County's most lucrative taxpayers - those who fly in to an expensive vacation home. They pay a lot of tax while using a minimum of county services. The 80/20 rule applies - 20% of the home owners are paying 80 of the taxes. Tampering with this taxpayer segment would have grave consequences to the County's already thin finances.

Jeff Nelson
Darby, MT