

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Becky Homan <becky.homan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2014 10:58 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Floodplain regulations

Commissioners: Sparkling clean rivers bring as many people to Montana as do the mountains themselves. And these travelers spend money while they're here.

We need substantial regulations to keep the water clean and clear. And not just for tourists but also for those of us who live and spend time and money recreating here and for the wildlife that depends on healthy rivers to survive and propagate.

Please do not discard the old, stricter floodplain regulations in favor of minimum state ones.

We fished along the banks of the Big Hole last summer and couldn't believe how much agricultural runoff there was going into that river, creating algal growth in massive clumps along the banks. It is one of Montanas most beautiful valleys, and yet nutrients, if not hormones and weed killers, are clearly feeding these noxious plumes. We will not go back to fish.

Is that what we want in the Bitterroot? Homes and development so close to the river that runoff of lawn and garden chemicals destroy the health and beauty of this central feature of the valley?

The answer is clearly "No!"

Sincerely,
Becky Homan
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Hamilton