

Glenda Wiles

From: Robert Prince <robertwaprince@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Concerns over Floodplain Regulation Regulations

Dear County Commission,

I am very concerned about the proposed amendments to the county's floodplain regulations which have prohibited residential development in the floodplain of the Bitterroot River since 1997.

As I understand, this would allow residential construction in the flood fringe, defined as the area alongside the floodway. As a fishing guide and one who recreates on the river often, I am fully aware of how meandering, and braided the Bitterroot River is. This year's flood fringe can quickly become next year's floodway.

Residential construction in the flood fringe is not only dangerous, given the meandering nature of the river, but could also seriously harm the fly fishing industry as river front landowners build homes where no homes have ever been built. Tourism and fishing in the Bitterroot is a multi-million dollar a year industry. People enjoy coming here to fish by and large due to the overall undeveloped, natural, and beautiful state of the river.

As the river inevitably migrates from east to west and back, landowners will attempt to safeguard their homes and property with ever more rip-rap projects, leading to channelization of this wild, free flowing river and healthy fishery. The Bitterroot is already impacted by current levels of rip-rap, dewatering, and elevated summer stream temperatures. It is amazing that the river has maintained itself as a quality as a trout fishery.

I hope that the commission will see the economic and quality of life benefits a wild, free flowing Bitterroot River imparts on the valley. I again urge you to keep the floodplain regulations as they are and not allow residential development inside the flood fringe.

I have included a link to an article that very articulately explains how rip-rap and residential development can negatively impact river systems here is Montana, I encourage that you take a minute to read it. [Wild Rivers and Rip-Rap: The Case of the Yellowstone](#)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Prince
Stevensville, MT