

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Jason Brininstool <jbrininstool@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 7, 2015 9:16 PM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Bitterroot Floodplain proposal

To whom it may concern/county commissioners,

I am very disappointed to hear the news that the current proposal to allow construction inside the floodplain on the Bitterroot was recently approved. This will continue to present major issues in the future, from threatened homes and property, to environmental and aquatic health of the river. The Bitterroot has a wide, expansive, floodplain that is forever changing between run off and stable flows EVERY SINGLE YEAR. Why would you all believe this makes any sense, and who in their right mind would approve of this proposal?! Who influenced this idea?!

The river already suffers from a number of issues, which range from on stream impact, irrigation impact, and manipulation/destruction of the stream banks and the flood plain. Increasing pressure on this part of the river. Increases in rip rap construction, and altering stream banks will not benefit the long term health of the river, or the fishery, nor will it benefit the property owners. It doesn't take a genius to float down that river and see the harm that rip rap construction causes as it continually channelizes sections of river. Furthermore, no one wins in this proposal. The trout don't win, recreational floaters and anglers lose, and the property owners lose. That river, and the flood plain it forms will continue to do whatever the hell it wants, no matter how much we try to impede movement. Property will continue to be lost in the form of stream bank erosion and property values will plummet because of the constant maintenance and loss of property. This will also have an impact on tourism and the commercial fishery on the river, as guided trout fishing and recreational fisherman that come from all over the country, will feel the effects of this decision in the form of an impacted fishery and limited access to such a special place. We all lose on this one, except for, apparently, out of state, wealthy landowners in the county who apparently carry more weight in the decision process than us citizens of Montana. You all need to begin to look at the bigger picture here. I'm very disappointed in this outcome and I hope that you all build up enough nerve and make the right choice to revisit this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Jason Brininstool