

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** Marshall Bloom <drtrout@mtbloom.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2015 8:30 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Cc:** Marshall E Bloom; Ross Rademacher; 'Clancy, Chris -FS'  
**Subject:** Flood plain flood fringe regulation issue

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to keep the flood plain and flood fringe protections in place since I will be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for Weds. I am very familiar with this issue and have also reviewed the research paper that Chris Clancy has discussed.

I have lived in Ravalli County for over 40 years and am cognizant of just how unstable the Bitterroot River is! There are very, very few places along the river where the channel has not migrated considerably, and anyone that denies that is frankly delusional. Furthermore, the research verifies my observations and makes it abundantly clear that it is hard if not impossible to predict where the channel will be next year. The river immediately upstream from the Main Street bridge is a prime example.

A slow considered evaluation of all the issues is the conservative approach, not a rush to change the current protections that we currently have. It is also crucial to involve credible river hydrologists, biologists and experts in geomorphology. The public also has a huge stake in this debate as do the guides and outfitters who bring in millions of dollars each year into our valley.

The Bitterroot River is clearly the goose that is laying golden eggs every year. Mismanaging the river with unwise changes is like killing that goose!

Therefore, I urge you not to make any changes to the flood plain and flood fringe protections at this juncture, and to adopt the slower, more conservative approach and involve the public along the way. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Bloom  
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