

Glenda Wiles

From: Doug Jones <cdrckflyfish@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Flood "fringe" development

I'll start off by stating that I'm an outfitter so most likely you'll know where I stand. Having said that I also have a Degree From Louisiana State University in fish and wildlife conservation. It's mind boggling to me that this referendum passed 5-0 without one board member saying let's at least have some research done before we go any further with this amendment. From my Outfitting perspective I've seen over the last 2 decades people try to contain the Bitterroot with no success. As a guide were prohibited to remove any dangerous debris from the river. It's considered wild and scenic therefore should stay that way. But time and time again have watched in awe as D9's have been in the stream bed trying to manipulate the river's coarse. Often with clients days being ruined as the river is completely silted up with no visibility. From my studies in school I've learned that when river's become over silted they become warm and choked of oxygen first killing microorganisms and then the cycle moves up the chain. It's no secret that often the Bitterroot has temp issues due to irrigation diversions and extra silt will no doubt add to the concerns of the life in the river. The passing of this bill WILL lead to more attempts to control the river in order to save land. Every year Millions of dollars are spent on tourism in Montana. A large part from anglers. They spend money in hotels,restaurants,license fees shops, I could go on and on. If we start to lose this river,even more than we have. We will lose the Tourism and also their money. I believe a large part of those who want to build and contain the Bitterroot often come from other places too. They come want their Walmarts and decks on the river. They want to change and control things. Have them the way they were where they came from. And they will. and the river will die, either slowly of quickly. And these home owners will go somewhere else also. And what we will be left with is stories of how Great the Bitterroot used to be. Why can't these homes be built OFF the fringe with a view of the river. I hope you will reconsider this decision not for me. But for my son and his generation to appreciate. The river isn't ours. It's just ours to use and protect. Not make a profit and abuse.

Thank You and please reconsider
Doug Jones

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