

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** Joanne Asker <jopazjazz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 3:51 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** FLOOD PLAIN REGULATIONS

I vacation in the Bitterroot Valley. I have heard that you are considering loosening the flood plain regulations that would then allow building in the flood fringe. This is a very bad idea. I float the Bitterroot River whenever I am visiting. It is a treasure.

During the past 21 years that I have been coming to the Bitterroot, the river has changed dramatically. You don't have to take my word for it. I understand that the FEMA maps that you are about to adopt show exactly what I have seen. In at least 30 instances, the actual river as seen today flows through the "flood fringe" on the map. That means that by loosening these regulations across the board, you are allowing people to build in the river. That is crazy.

I also understand that you do not have to do this. The state and FEMA have said that you can keep your existing regulations or make them stricter than the state regulations.

Please do not change the regulations. As a visitor, you will be changing the biggest reason that I come to the Bitterroot. I am sure that there are thousands of visitors who would agree with me if they only knew what you are proposing.

You WILL lose visitors if you allow the Bitterroot River to be compromised. The money I spend there will be spent in an area where the people have the foresight to protect the resources that make me want to spend time there. Don't ruin our beautiful vacation spot.

Joanne Asker  
Chatsworth, California