

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 1:44 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Comments on Westside Project
Attachments: Campbell Westside project comments.docx

Dear Commissioners, I was unable to attend the listening session this morning regarding the Westside project. Please find attached my comments to Ranger Domsalla.

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell

Dave Campbell
972 Judd Creek Hollow
Hamilton, MT 59849
(406) 370-8088

Ryan Domsalla

September 24, 2015

District Ranger

6735 West Fork Road

Darby, MT 59829

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the proposed Westside Collaborative Vegetation Management Project. My wife and I live on Judd Creek Hollow and frequently use the project area. I hiked the Ward Mountain Trail on Tuesday as I often do, and I am well aware of the condition of the forest and the difficulties the Forest Service would face with a fire there on a hot August day. I also realize managing the vegetation prior to a fire start is the best way to ensure success when a fire does start and will also result in improved vegetative diversity in this area where fire has been excluded for many years.

The short term inconvenience of the sounds of chainsaws, trucks and other equipment is far preferable to the sounds of air tankers and helicopters later. This type of project in the Wildland Urban Interface is a good investment especially when compared to the high cost of fire suppression where no reduction of fuel has taken place and also affords many more options for fire management should a fire occur. As the saying goes "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure".

I especially appreciate the fact that this project arose through a collaborative process bringing people of different opinions together to listen and to understand different viewpoints. Surely the way forward in managing our forests is through listening and gaining better understanding of the science behind these kinds of projects. There are many examples where fuel reduction treatments completed before a fire start have contributed to successful management of fires when they do occur.

Please extend my thanks to the Bitterroot Restoration Committee and to the Interdisciplinary team for the work on this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ David M. Campbell

Dave Campbell

972 Judd Creek Hollow

Hamilton, MT 59840

Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners