

Chris Taggart

From: Glenda Wiles
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: public comment

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SEP 15 2017

Ravalli County Planning Dept.

-----Original Message-----

From: C. Grandstaff [mailto:grandstaff@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 1:10 PM
To: choffman@rc.mt.gov; Greg Chilcott <gchilcott@rc.mt.gov>; Jeff Burrows <jburrows@rc.mt.gov>
Cc: Glenda Wiles <gwiles@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: public comment

Commissioners Chilcott, Hoffman and Burrows:

No one will make any more wilderness. The forest will come back after the fires, maybe not in your lifetime, but in your children's or grandchildren's. All is not lost in the forest, just changed, probably for decades, but not forever. Today, you would never know that in August 1910, three million acres burned in 48 hours in the Wallace, Idaho area. (Which also is evidence that big fires are not a new phenomenon in the northern Rockies.) The idea that the forest can be "managed," with no definition of "managed" (other than "cutting trees down," I suppose) is hubris, especially at a time when the summers have gotten hotter, longer and drier, and summer lightning still strikes indiscriminately. In fact, you could argue that "forest management" since the 1910 fire created the forest environment we have today.

I'm most disheartened that the commission would write this letter to a congressional delegation that deliberately divides their constituency by blaming "environmental extremists" for the Lolo Peak fire without one shred of evidence, but with evidence to the contrary. Greg and Chris, you both were born and raised here. Do you not know that the rest of the world does not look like this? Wilderness has an intrinsic value, and does not exist solely for the money value of its timber and minerals.

There's no reason to release the WSAs to "management," unless you hope that by doing so you can recreate the glory days of logging. If that's your intention, I invite you to visit the Darby Library when school gets out and look at the kids on the computers or on their own devices and ask yourselves where the next generation of loggers is coming from. Not from the graduating class of Darby High School, I can assure you. As far as the economy is concerned, I've lived in the Bitterroot for 41 years and I've seen the economy do nothing but improve. Recreation, health care and science is our economy now, not logging or mining. The future - indeed, the present - of the economy lies in this magnificent environment and its protection. No one ever moved to the Bitterroot for a logging job. Not in our lifetimes, anyway.

I know it's too late to change your minds, but I felt a compelling need to let you know that you're on the wrong side of this issue. As I said in my public comment texts to Greg, the county commission would do well to stick to issues that are within your purview. And on a related note, your live streaming service is great, but it doesn't go live until after a meeting is already started and I usually miss the opening remarks, as I did today, so I'm not entirely sure why you're sending this letter, who wrote it or where you got your information for it since the meeting was underway when it went live.

Thanks Greg, for reading my text comments into the record. Jeff, you should not have personally criticized a constituent for living where he does, especially when he made the trip to offer public comment. Chris, your comments were heartfelt and honest, but wrong. No need for any of you to reply to this letter.

Best,
Carlotta