

COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6500 * 406-375-6507 Fax
commissioners@rc.mt.gov

*Sent to
Julie Key
BR F.S.
on 2/6/14*

January 31, 2014

RE: Scoping Comments for the Proposed Darby Lumber Lands Project.

To Whom It May Concern;

The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners received a request from the Ravalli County Off Road User Association to write a letter of support for their Scoping Comments regarding the Proposed Darby Lumber Lands Project.

The Ravalli County Commissioners strongly support any activities that promote an increase to our public access to the Bitterroot National Forest lands for multiple use as documented within the Ravalli County Natural Resource Use Policy. **Adopted Nov. 21, 2012** after an extensive public process.

On page 12 under the title **Roads and Trail: Access and Transportation**

Goal 1. Maintain the historic right to travel..., recreational activities, motorized vehicle use, etc.

Objective A: ...Any roads existing prior to implementation of the FLPMA in 1976 are still recognized under RS 2477.

Goal 7. Encourage and facilitate responsible recreational opportunities.

Goal 8. Promote motorized access for recreational opportunities.

Objective B: Modernize the Forest Service definition of an ATV.

The Darby Lumber Lands Project, while closing some roads, the project has a net gain on road and trails inventory. This is supported within our Natural Resource Policy.

The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners support the Ravalli County Natural Resource Use Policy and request that the United States Forest Service reference our policy in all proposed projects on the Bitterroot National Forest. The proposed Darby Lumber Lands Project impacts many of the issues covered in our policy. To that purpose we have included a copy of the Policy for your review.


We applaud the excellent working relationship displayed by the Bitterroot National Forest personnel and the Ravalli County Off Road User Association on the Darby Lumber Lands project.

Sincerely,

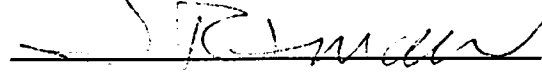
RAVALLI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



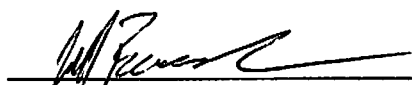
Greg Chilcott, Chairman



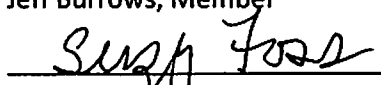
Ron Stoltz, Member



J.R. Iman, Member



Jeff Burrows, Member



Suzy Foss, Member