

Glenda Wiles

From: Munir Peter Reynolds [director@dancesofuniversalpeace.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Predator Policy

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed Ravalli County Predator Policy. Why do I oppose it?

1. Ravalli County has no business attempting to regulate resources that are managed *for the benefit of the whole state* by the Fish and Wildlife department. It is a complete waste of your time and the taxpayers' money to be trying to assert your legal authority in this area.

2. *"Concerns have been raised by members of the public that the ever increasing numbers of wolves and, potentially, grizzly bears may present a real danger to persons while on private or public lands."* Let me hereby express my *opposite* concern for the health of our ecosystem when these natural predators are destroyed. Scientific studies have repeatedly shown that eliminating the animals that keep lower species in check lead to starvation and overpopulation of the so-called desirable species.

3. *"As mentioned, the potential for predation upon pets and working livestock is well documented and should be given appropriate weight when considering management policies."* We live near a wilderness area. Let the residents beware and take proper precautions. Killing wildlife because they pose a potential threat to people's pets is an absurd position.

4. *"Thousands of Ravalli County residents have grown up hunting in the Bitterroot and thousands more moved to the Bitterroot expressly for that purpose. Many current residents have hunted these "home" ranges for a lifetime. That right is guaranteed by the state constitution and shall be protected as a policy of the county."* Thousands have also moved here for reasons other than hunting. People are free to hunt within established regulations and do not need this ridiculous policy in order to do so. It's also my right to enjoy an unspoiled wild environment. I say let Fish and Wildlife do the job as they see fit. What about my rights as a lover of the natural environment?

I could go on. I hope that you will drop this misguided idea that is fueled by ideology and complete disregard of the science involved. **When ideology reigns, thinking has completely come to an end!**

Sincerely,

Peter Reynolds
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