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Ravalli County Planning Dept.

February 2, 2018

TO: Ravalli County Commissioners

REGARDING: "WSA Designation

Due to other commitment I can not attend the February 7 meeting.

As a 76 year old, born in the Bitterroot, I believe the WSA's need removed and if not, be removed from Defacto Wilderness.

We have ½ the Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) in wilderness now. It is a land of no use. The BNF has taken the multiple use designation out of the WSA's. The areas don't qualify as wilderness as designated by the Wilderness Study Act. The Sapphire WSA was the prime use of motorized recreation (ATV-snowmobile). I have road and camped in the Chain of Lakes since the 60's. Actually using a jeep to get there. Those roads (now trails) were built with dozers for the Sleeping Child fires. The BNF said they don't qualify as wilderness designation in the 80's. They rebuilt the Chain of Lakes trail to accommodate ATV's.

These actions by the BNF blocks the use to handicapped, elderly and others unless you are in good shape or ride a horse. It is discriminatory.

I am not saying it needs opened up to mining or clear cutting (make primitive area) and give us back motorized recreation. This BNF Trail Plan affects many aspects of the valley. From hotels, businesses, retailers etc. The liberal agenda never stops until there is no land left for anyone to enjoy by other means than theirs. They use every excuse possible with zero facts or data.

Sincerely,



Dean Frost
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