

2-16-18

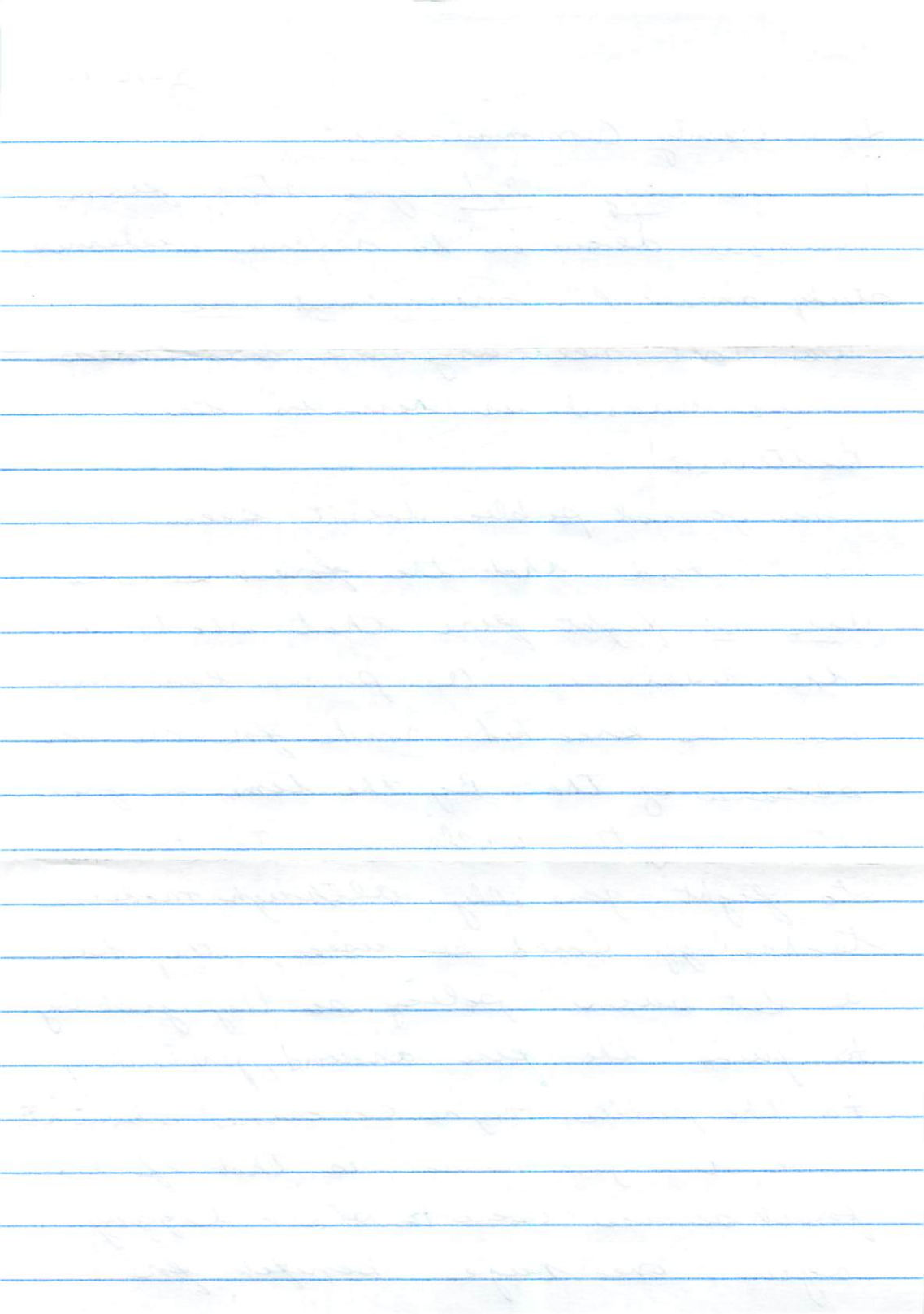
Dear County Commissioners -

We are very glad you stood firm on your decision to release wilderness study areas for management use.

We don't need any more wilderness areas around us here in the Betterroot!

The general public doesn't seem to understand that the forest service does not fight fire that starts in the wilderness. As proved last summer we breathed smoke for months because of that. By the time a fire gets out of the wilderness it's too big to fight generally. Although modern technology could be used, they have a "let burn" policy so they just try to "guide" the fire around, pretending to the public they're concerned about it.

The other good reason, is that if the forest service were to start logging again, one huge benefit for



the county is that each logging truck with a load of logs that comes out of the woods, a percentage of money goes to Ravalli County - as tax money. It helped our schools tremendously. Most people don't know that - check it out, if you need to. My husband was the timber sale administrator ^{for the U.S.F.S.} here in our county for about 20 years. He's watched the demise of our forests here in the valley. Old pictures we have of our mountains are not scarred with huge fires all over the face of the Betterroots!!

Please stick to your guns.
Thanks for listening,

Grace Lubrand

Ravalli County Commissioners

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ISRAELI COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS

FEB 21 2018

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