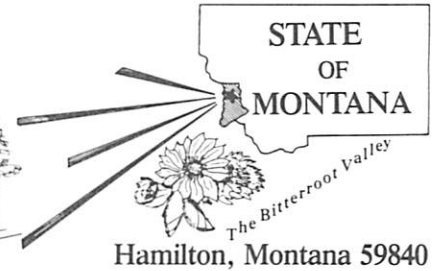
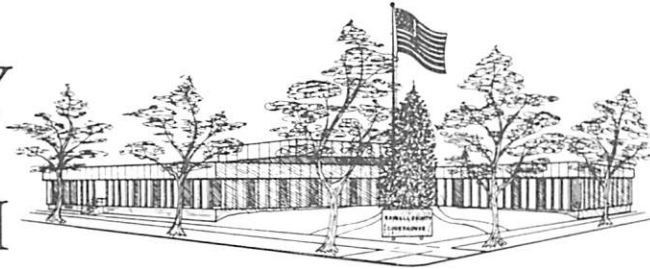


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT. 59840
406-375-6500
commissioners@rc.mt.gov

October 31, 2018

Objection Reviewing Official, USDA Forest Service
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT. 59804

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the objection process in considering mountain biking on the additional 62.4 miles closed in the final plan.

The Board of Ravalli County Commissioners (BCC) objected to the draft Record of Decision (ROD) on the Bitterroot National Forest Travel Management Plan in 2015. The Forest Service determined the BCC did not have standing to object because a comment had not been made nearly a decade prior.

Until recently, bicycles had been used on trails in the Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) for decades without measurable impact or conflict. Bicyclists are beneficial to all WSA trail systems through their voluntary clearing and maintenance of trails.

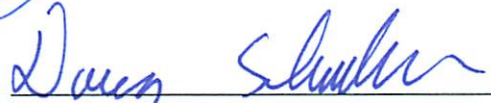
The Bitterroot National Forest Plan of 1987 identified approximately 94,000 acres of the Sapphire WSA and 32,500 acres (of 61,000 acres) of the Blue Joint WSA as not possessing wilderness characteristics and not suitable for designation as wilderness. We support diverse recreational opportunities in these areas which enhances the local economy.

The Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners request that the Bitterroot National Forest allow diverse recreational opportunities in the WSA's, including bicycles.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



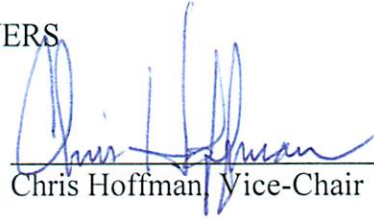
Jeff Burrows, Chairman



Doug Schallenberger, Member



Greg Chilcott, Member



Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chair



Ray Hawk, Member

October 31, 2018 – Letter considering mountain biking