

COUNTY OF RAVALLI



RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Hamilton, MT. 59840
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November 8, 2018

Eric Winthers
Darby/Sula Ranger District
PO Box 388
Darby, MT 59829

RE: Comment Letter for the Darby Lumber Lands Phase II Project

Dear Eric,

The Board of Ravalli County Commissioners (BCC) thanks you, Forest Service staff and Supervisor Steele for your continued efforts to work with Commissioners and resolve important issues on our National Forest in Ravalli County. The Commissioners also appreciate your consideration of the BCC's comment on this project and we support the Darby Lumber Lands Phase II Project.

We appreciate that Phase II proposes a small amount of vegetation management in this area including commercial harvest. We believe the work you are completing with this project will enhance public safety for our citizens. Ravalli County has advocated for active forest management, this project is a step in the right direction.

The BCC adopted the Ravalli County Natural Resource Use Policy in 2012. The policy outlines goals and objectives in specific Ravalli County Natural Resource areas. Ravalli County requests that the Forest Service review the Ravalli County Natural Resource Policy and coordinate on project specific goals and objectives related to transportation and forest management that are supported by the document.

We are concerned that the project results in a net loss of over 19 miles of roads currently open for motorized access. The Ravalli County Natural Resource Use Policy states in part "Ravalli County is opposed to road and trail closures and/or decommissioning. There shall be no net loss of Forest Service road/trails. We support additional roads/trails."

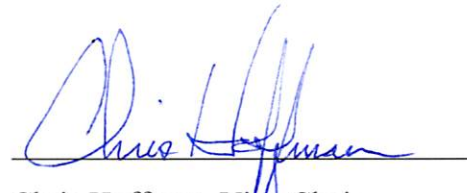
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Burrows, Chairman




Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chair



Greg Chilcott, Member



Ray Hawk, Member



Doug Schallenberger, Member