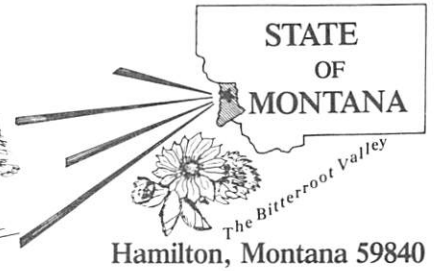


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



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

April 9, 2019

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

RE: Comment Letter for the McCart Lookout Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Eric,

The Board of Ravalli County Commissioners (BCC) thanks you, Forest Service staff and Supervisor Anderson 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.

The BCC supports the McCart Lookout Fuels Reduction Project and supports expanding the project fully utilizing the Categorical Exclusion (CE) limits. Expanding the project area would reduce wildfire potential in the area which is extremely important for the health and safety of the number of recreational activities in the East Fork and the residents of Billy Springer Memorial. Expanding the project area will also increase the commercial viability of the project and protect the lookout infrastructure.

Since this area has recently concluded an Environmental Analysis for the Meadow Vapors project with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) we would recommend and encourage the Forest Service to utilize the full potential of the allowed CE limitations to continue the necessary vegetation management in this area to improve the forest health and health and safety of the users and residents in the area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Burrows, Chairman



Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chair



Greg Chilcott, Member