Sent to FS 11-28-17

Virginia Kelly, ID Team Leader

I know the Forest Service is completing the consistency review of the Gallatin County Growth Policy and the new Forest Plan so I wanted to send you this information which you may not be aware of in the County Growth Policy.

The County formally adopted a trails inventory and usage document on January 3, 2002. I am attaching a copy of the meeting minutes from the December 13-14 Commission meeting where the County passed a Resolution of intent to adopt the Trails Plan and then on January 3, 2002 the Commission passed Resolution #2002-04 to include the Trails Plan as part of the Growth Policy. You will also find the link to Appendix I in the attachment which will take you to the Trails inventory.

The inventory lists all the trails in the County along with the accepted uses adopted by the County and included in the Growth Policy. I request you take this trails plan into consideration during your consistency review as many of the trail allowed uses have been arbitrarily changed by the Forest Service without notice to the public or the local County government. During your review please explain why the Forest Service is unable to adjust your allowed uses to match what the County has identified as acceptable.

Many of your identified possible wilderness additions or recommendations may have additional affects on the allowed use of these trails as adopted by the Commission. Please take this into consideration when moving forward on your recommendations for wilderness in the Forest Plan. If wilderness is recommended in areas of trails where motorized and mechanized use is identified as allowed in the Trails Plan in the Growth Policy, please make adjustments so as to not remove these historic uses.

I believe it would also be appropriate to review the Travel Plan and Interim orders to compare what the County Growth Policy and Trails Plan as adopted has identified as allowed use and explain why the Forest Service can not make your plan consistent with the County plan.

The attachment also has excepts from the Growth Policy which I believe are important to the Desired Conditions which the Forest Service is currently completing for the new Forest Plan.

 The attachment also has excepts from the Gallatin County Fire Protection Plan which will help guide your Forest Plan as the Gallatin County Fire Protection Plan includes both private and adjacent public land. (see objectives 1, 5, and 7)

I served on the Planning Board from 2000 until 2010 and served as president for 2 years and also on the Committee that developed the Growth Policy for the Planning Board and adoption by the County Commission. If you have any questions regarding the intent or policies in this document please feel free to contact me and set up a meeting.

Please include this email, the attachment, and any further correspondence with me in the administrative record for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan revision.

Sincerely,

Kerry White

Below are the minutes from the Commission meetings where the Trails Plan was adopted as part of the County Growth Policy. These are copied word for word from the referenced commission journals and can be found on the Gallatin County website.

*PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY THE l8th DAY OF DECEMBER 2001*

*429 GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' JOURNAL NO. 46*

*Gallatin County Long Range Planning Manager Lanette Windemaker reported on the public hearing and consideration of a resolution of intention to adopt the Gallatin County Trails Plan as a revision to the Gallatin County Plan. Ms. Windemaker stated that this was a request by Gallatin County to adopt the "Connecting Communities: Gallatin County Trails Report and Plan", as part of the Gallatin County Plan, dated March 2001. The Trails Plan would apply to all land within the jurisdiction of the Gallatin County Plan, including property located within the 1990 Bozeman Area Master Plan Update and will serve as both a resource guide and a trails network vision. The Planning Board held a public hearing on this proposal on October 23, 2001, and voted 7-0, with one abstaining to recommend adoption and implementation of the Trails Plan into the Gallatin County Plan. Discussion took place regarding who would review the Trails Plan and future subdivision proposals, conditional use permits, and development proposals for conformance with the Trails Plan. Ms. Windemaker confirmed that currently it would be the Planning Board, although there was a recommendation in the plan to have a committee appointed by the Commission or the Planning Board to review subdivisions or plans in regards to the Trails Plan. Public comment in support: Gary V odehnal and R. Dale Beland. Commissioner Murdock stated he would like to adopt the Trails Plan as part of the Master Plan and also, request that the Planning Board proceed with advertising for a trails sub-committee. Finding that the Trails Plan does not change the development pattern and the land use plan; that this amendment to include the Trails Plan in the Master Plan constitutes an overall improvement to the Master Plan by providing continuity with countywide planning on the trails policy; the Trails Plan benefits the entire community; and that the Trails Plan is consistent with the overall intent of the Master Plan, Commissioner Murdock moved to approve the Trails Plan, as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Vincent. None voting nay. Motion carried. Commissioner Murdock stated the importance that every development proposal, subdivision and conditional use permit that come before the Commission be reviewed by the Planning Board or its sub-committee, reviewing its conformance and implementation of this Trials Plan. Motion by Commissioner Murdock, asking the Planning Board to proceed with appointing a sub-committee for that purpose, per their by-laws. Seconded by Commissioner Vincent. None voting nay. Motion carried.*

*PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY THE 3nd DAY OF JANUARY 2002*

*438 GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' JOURNAL NO. 46*

*Gallatin County Long Range Planning Manager Lanette Windemaker reported on the public hearing and consideration of a resolution to adopt the Gallatin County Trails Plan as a revision to the Gallatin County Plan. There was no public comment. Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Resolution #2002-04. Seconded by Commissioner Vincent. None voting nay. Motion carried.*