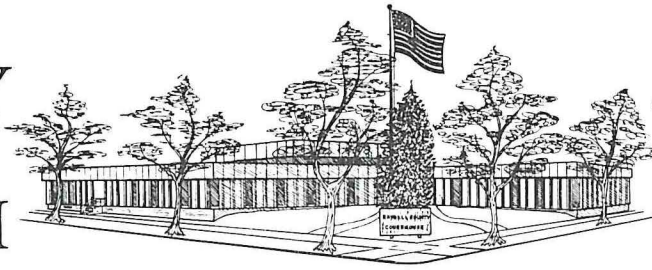


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



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

October 8, 2019

Seth Carbonari
Bitterroot National Forest
1801 N First Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

RE: Ravalli County Comments the Piquett Creek Project

Dear Seth,

The Board of Ravalli County Commissioners (BCC) thanks you and Forest Supervisor Matt Anderson for considering the following comments on the Piquett Creek Project. We look forward to working with you throughout this project.

We support the purpose and the proposed actions for the project and agree that it meets a category of action that should be excluded from an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Areas within the project boundary (that have not already burned) are choked with small unhealthy trees. These thick, unhealthy stands are a fire hazard and are not good elk habitat. These stands need to be opened up to promote the growth of grasses and low lying vegetation.

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 has provided a number of courtesy copies of this document to the Bitterroot National Forest since it was adopted) Ravalli County requests the Forest Service review the Ravalli County Natural Resource Policy and implement project goals and objectives that are supported by the policy.

Please consider these comments as part of the official record for the Piquett Creek Project. We look forward to being actively involved with this project's development and analysis.

Sincerely,

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Burrows", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Burrows, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Hoffman", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Hoffman, Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Chilcott", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Chilcott, Member