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First name: Erik

Last name: Hoover

Organization: Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management

Title: Director

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), I am writing to offer my Office's support, as well as my personal support of the Bitterroot Front Project.

The efforts outlined in the project proposal have been needed for many years, and if approved, will result in long-term benefits for the residents, visitors, and stakeholders of Ravalli County and the Bitterroot National Forest.

Through my work in OEM over the past twenty years, as well as many more recreating in the Forest, I have observed the effects of past and existing forest management practices. The Forest needs more, and the Bitterroot Front Project seeks to address those needs in the locations that will provide positive impacts to our Community.

These benefits will be afforded through targeted timber harvests and vegetation treatments, improvements to the existing road systems, and other improvements to wildlife habitat in the project areas. Most importantly, the Forest intends work with residents, community members, and other stakeholders throughout the process, to ensure that existing relationships, ongoing related efforts, and other available resources are aligned in support of and efficient and effective project.

The Bitterroot National Forest has worked to build an effective and positive relationship with my Office, as well as other local stakeholders. I trust in this process, and believe the result will be a project that our Community will see the benefits of for years to come.

Sincerely,

Erik Hoover, Director, Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management