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Bullock, Land Board should oppose limestone project

By Ron Matelich 15 hrs ago

Recently the Outdoor Industry Association released its findings that Montana's outdoor recreation industry generates \$7.2 billion in economic activity and 71,000 direct jobs. Gov. Bullock recently tweeted his support for this growing business sector.

Protecting access to public lands and wildlife habitat is vital to this this industry. There can be no doubt that outdoor recreation draws visitors to the Bozeman/Gallatin Valley community. BZN is Montana's busiest airport and with American and United Airlines increasing their flight schedules here, only affirms the growing number of tourist travelling to this area.

With this in mind, I am urging Gov. Bullock and the state's Land Board to stop the proposed DNRC Limestone West logging project that will destroy the last roadless wildlife habitat that connects Bozeman/the Gallatin Valley to the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Proceeding with this project will not only harm a pristine wildlife habitat, but also have a negative economic impact on local tourism. How will it look to tourists who spend money at down town businesses, hotels, and outdoor restaurants if Mount Ellis is carved up with logging roads and clear cut forest stumps?

The greater Bozeman/Gallatin Valley community needs to take action to stop this project. Each citizen, each conservation group, each business, the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association, the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County need to voice opposition to this project. The Save Our Gallatin Front is a community based organization that opposes the logging project and is hosting a public meeting at the Bozeman Library on Aug. 30, at 7 p.m., to share the

results of their recently completed wildlife study of the proposed logging area and to share more about their efforts to stop this project, (www.saveourgallatinfront.org). I encourage all interested community members to attend this meeting.

Ron Matelich

Bozeman

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