



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Dear Pro-Active Public Lands Management User and Supporter,

I want to sincerely THANK all of the sponsors and attendants of the Land Use Workshop, featuring Karen Budd-Falen.

Karen was very generous with her time and knowledge, which afforded our county commissioners multiple opportunities to visit with her without compromising their public meeting quorum laws. Three of the five commissioners were able to take advantage of the opportunities offered, and we thank them for their interest and participation.

On Mon, following the workshop, our Ravalli County Commissioners voted to update our Natural Resource Policy, in a manner as Karen suggested, so we have been working together to define the path forward.

Embedded in this letter are two links to the video archive of the event which are provided by Dan Browning of Raindancer Video, who was willing to use his time, talents and equipment for documenting this important event.

Morning Session and Afternoon Session

A few highlights are as follows: Beginning at the 9:23 time stamp of the first session, and continuing to about the 25 minute mark, we thoroughly debunk the outright lies and false narrative put forth by the democrats and green decoys concerning the transfer of public lands. Based on the 1.5 million TV ad campaign recently waged against Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, and the radio ad campaign already waged against Karen by the Montana Wildlife Federation, and the special meeting demanded by the Green Decoys concerning Senator Steve Daines bill on the release of WSA's (bill text [here](#)). I predict this will be THE issue the democrats use to attempt to steal the upcoming election cycle. It's my opinion that republicans have been remiss in not combatting their lies with truth. We can no longer stand mute. Sharing this email and video links widely is one way we can be effective in setting the record straight. The left lies, often and repeatedly. The links provided here clearly demonstrate their desperation.

I sincerely thank Senator Daines for his bill - Protect the Public Use of Public Lands bill. Its creation conveys the desire of the Montana State Legislature passage of HJ 9 to Congress. My letter of support can be found here: [Letter of Support](#).

At approximately the 37 minute time stamp of the first session, Karen speaks about National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, of 1969. NEPA is 6 pages long, an easy read, and can be found [here](#). NEPA is not ONLY about protecting the environment as has been the focus for the past 4 decades, but also about doing it in harmony with the custom and culture of our county, as well as protecting our economic base. That said, and as our founders intended, it's up to we, the people and our local, elected government officials to make sure the law is properly followed, and our culture, customs and history are honored, and our economic base protected by writing a detailed land use plan. Karen agreed that Ravalli County has a good start with our 31 page Natural Resource Policy (hyper link to NRP), passed by resolution in 2012, but it needs a lot more detail added.

Our next step is to collect supporting historical data and records concerning these aspects, so they can be used in to update our Natural Resource Policy, also known as our land use plan. A consistency review, as is required by federal law, cannot be expected without a well defined land use plan. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings to address this issue.

Notable quotes from Karen - "It's not a partisan issue. It's a participation issue."

"Private property is defined by state law and local custom and culture."

"The Wilderness Act grandfathers in all prior existing uses." The Wilderness Act can be found here- <https://wilderness.nps.gov/document/wildernessAct.pdf>

Additional related reading: National Forest Management Act - <http://www.thecre.com/fedlaw/legal14/nfma.htm>

Additional related reading: [Federal Lands Management and Policy Act](#) -

At approximately the 36 minute time stamp of the second session, Karen conveys her experience with coming to understand the constitution. Well worth the listen.

At approximately the 2:46 time stamp in the afternoon session you will see Larry Campbell of the Friends of the Bitterroot making comments as an opponent to a land use plan. At the 2:53 time stamp, he has returned to his seat and is no longer in the camera's view, but can be overheard saying "The Friends of the Bitterroot have never received payment from a successful lawsuit." Karen has provided the following 8 links to 8 separate cases that act as evidence contrary to Larry's statement. I am attaching links below to the court cases (in .pdf format) I found that included Friends of the Bitterroot as a plaintiff where attorney fees were awarded by the federal government for litigation.

[Attorney Fees Paid](#)

[\\$17,600 Attorney Fees Paid](#)

[\\$103,060 Attorney Fees Paid](#)

[\\$76,149.25 Attorney Fees Paid](#)

[\\$42,000 Attorney Fees Paid #76](#)

[\\$42,000 Attorney Fees Paid #47](#)

[\\$35,000 Attorney Fees Paid](#)

[\\$15,560 Attorney Fees Paid](#)

Here is a link to the public archive of former Ravalli County Commissioner, Carlotta Grandstaff, currently representing Bitterrooters For Planning. The 3 minute clip features Ms. Grandstaff “strongly opposing [what she calls] a growth policy written by Karan Budd-Falen” and goes on to say “we would fight that...it would be the stuff of your worst political nightmares.”

Despite the copious amounts of misinformation conveyed in the Ravalli Republic and Bitterroot Star, the workshop was a success, with over 120 people in attendance, and every seat being paid for by one of our generous sponsors. Again, we thank them for their support and our citizens and County Commissioners for their participation.

Respectfully,

Theresa Manzella

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goo.gl/8TmiRf

