

Swan Valley Regional Plan Element Comments (MB 3/19/2018)

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1. Introduction, pages 4 thru 6:

I live in Lake County near the Missoula County line; will copies of this plan also be sent to the appropriate Lake County governmental officials/offices so they are aware of it?

2. Natural Resources and Environment, (1.0 thru 1.15) pages 7 thru 17:

“Should” or will p. 13, 14: Since we are lacking regulatory authority and we want to get people to abide by the collective will of the people as stated in this plan, I suggest we might start by saying “Surveys WILL be taken prior to any disturbance...of potential habitat...(or) of areas likely to support water howellia”. Don’t make recommendations optional by using “should”; if they are optional, people won’t do it.

Septic systems (p. 16) – I’m concerned there seems to be a belief that properly designed and installed septic systems preclude negative ground water impacts. This is not true. These systems are simple biological treatment systems and their effectiveness depends on users being careful about what goes into them (no chemical products, for example) and regular maintenance. Educational outreach by the county health departments is the solution.

Action #5 (p.17): Ensure that wildlife corridors are preserved (period)... *no qualification needed.*

3. Economic Development, (2.0 thru 2.4) pages 18 thru 23:

Goals, Policies, Actions (p. 18) – business sectors (p. 23) - Attract *sustainable* (sustainably operated) *businesses* – precise guidance for what that looks like is here: www.globalreporting.org. GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) has developed the blueprint for how to build sustainable businesses. While scaled for corporations, the framework and design elements are applicable to any organization. This framework originated in the USA in the 1990s.

Actions (p.23): (5) I’m concerned with encouraging privately owned RV parks when there is no regulatory/permitting authority to control how they are designed or operated. Better to work with USFS to establish new campgrounds that can also support action #4.

4. Land use: (3.0 thru 3.12) pages 24 thru 31:

Land ownership (p. 24) – “The USFS is the largest land owner in the Upper Swan planning area.” -

Please correct this statement as the USFS only administers/manages the public lands known as National Forest.

Action #5 (p. 31) – “Encourage the USFS to remove trees ...and fuels on public lands.” – This is mentioned previously (p. 25). I think it should be stated more comprehensively that Swan Valley residents support sustainable forest management practices including fire-prevention management in the WUI . Furthermore, all citizens are encouraged to participate in the USFS-sponsored environmental review/assessment processes that accompany planned forest management projects (example: Cold Jim Fuels Management Project).

5. Housing: (4.0 thru 4.5) pages 32 thru 35: No comments.

6. Transportation: (5.0 thru 5.6) pages 36 thru 38:

Action #3 (p. 38): Dust abatement - Dust suppressants & road salt. These chemicals (typically salts, petroleum-based products or lignin sulfonate) can accumulate in the soils beside the application site and eventually kill the vegetation along the roadways, including nearby trees. Salts can remain in the soil long-term despite leaching. Better solutions: observe lower speed limits, get better winter tires/AWD and add gravel to unpaved roads (summer).

7: Public Facilities & Services: (6.0 thru 6.10) pages 39 thru 44: No comments.

8. Implementation: (7.0 thru 7.8) pages 45 thru 49:

Regulations (p. 45): I am concerned about the stated perception several times in this plan that there isn't public support for rules/regulations/permitting or other measures to enforce the will of 'we the people'. I expect that all entities involved with any development will abide by the citizens wishes as defined in this document. That means applying sustainable practices and 'doing no harm' to that which we all value. In the absence of some form of 'regulation', people who are inherently cheaters will always cheat. The reason why we have rules/regulations/permitting systems is because unsustainable development (*cheater tolerance*) has been the status quo in our society for decades and our economic system does not (currently) factor in the values of our natural world (ecosystem services such as clean water, clean air, fish, wildlife, outdoor recreation, good health, etc). If you don't want regulations and you do want to control the cheaters then you must train people to *regulate themselves* by adopting ecologically-based economics and sustainability as two key guiding principles of human activity. These are not quick/short-term solutions, but important medium-term goals.

9. Appendices A -D - No comments.

Appendix A-----Element 1 Natural Resources (1.3) Page 50 thru 51

Appendix B---Element 1 Natural Resources (1.4 Bull Trout Habitat Conservation) page 50 thru 51.

Appendix C—Element 1 Natural Resources (1.12 Ground Water Quality) Page 51

Appendix D—Element 3 Land Use (3.5) page 52

If you have changes you would like to address, please state the particular element, the section and page number. State area of concern and suggested correction text. Please feel free to contact anyone on the community council with any questions you may have. Once our community has finalized our Regional Plan, it will be sent to the county for their review and comments.

End.