

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting
February 21, 2018 – 5:15 p.m.
Fergus County Courtroom – 3rd Floor of the Courthouse
712 W. Main St.
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Ross Butcher, Commissioner Carl Seilstad, Commissioner Sandra Youngbauer, and Clerk & Recorder Rana Wichman. Public present: See attached list.

CALL TO ORDER:

Presiding Officer Butcher called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Presiding Officer Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the February 9, 2018 minutes. Hearing none the minutes will stand approved as distributed and they will be on file with the Clerk and Recorder and on the Fergus County Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) Public Comment on Congressional Action to Remove Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Designation from Snowy Mountains and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Commissioner Butcher stated that the comments would begin with those **opposed** to withdrawal of the two (2) areas from WSA Designation. Each side would be given approximately 35 minutes with the last 10 minutes being only those stating “Yea” or “Nay”. Individuals would be given a two (2) minute warning to wrap up their comment.

Laurie Lohrer – Asked to comment specifically on Senator Daines SB2206. She stated she likes to fish and/or hunt in public areas and in private areas, but likes the right to choose. Not every use needs to be allowed in every area. Citizens deserve a say in how public lands are managed. Would hate to see the Big Snowy Mountains with no restrictions. Asked that the Commissioners rescind their letter to Senator Daines.

Mary Frieze from Lewistown – Frieze read part of a letter that was later submitted to the Commissioners. She stated that these untraveled public lands set us apart from other states. She agreed it is time to decide how this land should be managed but it needs to go through a process. Senator Daines bill fails in this area. Public input is necessary.

Dave Mari – Senator Daines bill is based on the fact that the Forest Service did not recommend the Snowy Mountains as wilderness. This could open it up for public roads, mining, etc.

Glenn Elison – The current Snowy Mountain WSA Designation protects the aquifer that provides water to Lewistown and the surrounding area. Releasing the designation would increase off road travel and other use. Asked that the Commissioners rescind their letter at least for the Big Snowy Mountains.

Tim Faber from Big Sandy – He doesn't understand why you want it different than it is. This is critical winter habitat. He opposes any of the actions being proposed. He stated there are rumors that the Snowy Mountains are ripe for fire. He feels they could be logged and preserved.

Clint Loomis – Asked that the Commissioners contact Senator Daines and rescind their letter after receiving the comments they have gotten at this meeting.

Michael Peterson of Lewistown - He grew up in Red Lodge. He feels there are special places that need to be protected and saved. Once you go down the road of development you can't go back.

Peter Pratt Jr – The WSA's are one of the reasons he lives here. He said a lot of people live here for the wild lands. We are at a critical juncture for our children and grandchildren. Are we going to destroy these areas for them? How does removing this designation benefit us? Is it for financial and selfish reasons? He begged that the letter be rescinded.

Barbara Lodman – She grew up on Beaver Creek. The Snowy Mountains look the same now as they did when she grew up. You cannot get the wilderness back.

Jeff Shelden – Feels with communication these issues can be solved. He doesn't feel Senator Daines bill does that.

Dave Byerly – There was a time when a company wanted to put a copper mine in the Snowy Mountains. That was stopped by the wilderness study. Withdrawing protection from the Snowy Mountains would jeopardize our water. He is on the Port Authority Board and they are working on development. The Snowy Mountains are an asset for development as they stand.

Charlie Karinen – He is not opposed to motorized vehicles but the Snowy Mountains are no place for it. Once the protection is gone somebody can come in and buy these areas.

Toni Gies – The Snowy Mountains are the heart of our community. How can we pluck it out and expect the rest to survive?

Rachel Stansberry – Asked that a letter go to Senator Daines acknowledging that there are people opposed to this.

Hearing no other opponents, Commissioner Butcher stated that all letters and comments will be passed on to the congressional group. It was now time for **proponents** to withdrawing the WSA designation.

David McClure – Nobody here wants bad things to happen. He said the Montana Farm Bureau and Fergus County Farm Bureau promote orderly development of all minerals. Any further management of the wilderness system should be a minimal size and not an infringement of rights for the local area. The federal government is not always a good neighbor.

Harland Rouns – He is a local rancher and businessman. These areas have outlived their wilderness designation. While he is not for completely opening them up, they need to be open so they can be managed. They need to be opened for minimal use.

James McCollum of Great Falls – As a WSA enforced access is limited. He submitted comments to the Senate on 2/7/2018 when they had their hearing. The current WSA designation is obsolete.

Dick Rath – He grew up in the Snowy Mountains. The WSA designation has been there for over 40 years. WSA's are an act of Congress. The local Forest Service can manage this with public comment.

Tony Smith – removing the WSA status does not remove the protection. For this area mountain bike tourism could be a great asset.

Jerry Simpson from Moore – He is a 4th generation Central Montana resident. The WSA in the Snowy Mountains is a fire trap. There need to be trails to make firefighting possible. The Forest Service

currently has a “Let It Burn” policy for this area starting 9/15/2018. Locals will not be allowed in to fight fire.

Chuck LaFountain – These areas need to be managed properly.

Ron Poertner from Winifred – We don’t need these areas to have WSA designations. The Forest Service has had meetings over the years and they can manage them.

Vic Farr - He supports this action (removal of the WSA designations). We would not be able to take big equipment in to fight fires in the Snowy Mountains. The fires on Cottonwood Creek area have changed everything including water quality.

Tom Lindskoq – Removing WSA’s does not remove management. There needs to be logging for dead and insect infested lumber.

Steve Sim of Great Falls – Is a member of the Russel Country Sportsman. This bill is not written top down. It started locally. These areas will remain roadless. Tester opposed the bill saying there is no support from local groups and that is not true. He personally delivered a letter to him.

Dan Powers – Supports lifting the WSA designations. There needs to be local input and less restrictions.

Darrell Tuss – Has significant documentation on the Snowy Mountain areas including a 2001 collaboration group study and maps. Nobody wants to see the mountains destroyed.

Others stating their support of lifting the WSA designations:

Ryan Osmundson

Connie Ahlgren

Vic Farr

Bev Farr

Karl Thomas

Matt Helm

Al Lake

Bob O’Dell

Sam Short

Ron Bowen

Karl Hertel

Bing VonBergen

Gary Lancaster

Ken Johnston

Kenny Roy

Skip Storfa

Bob Ruckman

Alice Green

Joe Bauman

Curt Bass

Chris Newton

Paul Granot

Nick Burnham

Cody Bass

Ron Ahlgren

Bob Barber

Mary Beth Roy

The Commissioners thanked everyone for their comments and attendance. Commissioner Seilstad stated that over the course of the last week they have received 22 emails with 17 of those in favor of lifting the WSA designation. They also have other letters and documentation that will be made a part of these minutes.

At this point the regular business meeting was continued.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1) Floodplain Permit #02-2018-FC = City Pedestrian Bridge over Big Spring Creek – Commissioner Butcher opened the public hearing. County Planner Pam Vosen presented information on this permit. There being no public comment the public hearing was then closed.

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

- 1) MACo Midwinter had some good trainings.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Floodplain Permit #02-2018-FC – City Pedestrian Bridge over Big Spring Creek. Commissioner Youngbauer moved to approve Floodplain Permit #02-2018-FC – City Pedestrian Bridge over Big Spring Creek. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

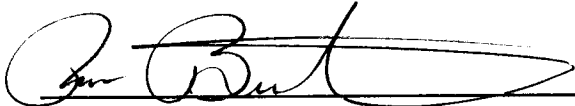
OTHER BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING DATES:

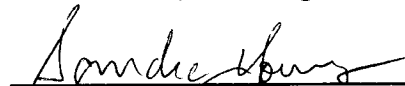
February 26, 2018 Monday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
March 9, 2018 Friday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
March 21, 2018 Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

Reminder: Agenda items are due to the Commissioners 5 days prior to the meeting.

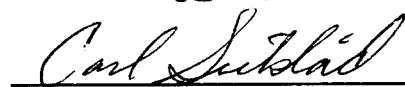
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher, Presiding Officer

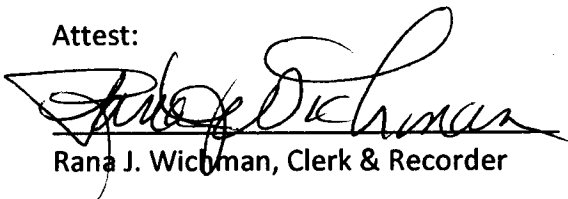


Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:



Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

February 21, 2018 Fergus County Public Meeting Attendance Roster

Public Comment Meeting Regarding Congressional Action to Remove WSA Designations from the Snowy Mountains and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Name	Residential Address	Public Comment		Release of WSA's	
		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
ROD ALBEE	678 ASHBOURNE TRAIL LEWISTOWN	✓		✓	
STEVE MATTHEWS	400 Arrowhead Lewis town	✓		✓	
Jim McCallum	2820 Central Ave W 2nd Falls	✓		✓	
Steve Sew	221 29th Ave NE St Falls	✓		✓	
Patty Turk	519 E Evelyn Lewis town	✓		✓	
Mary Frieze	1116 W Evelyn St	✓		✓	✗
Kenneth Roy & Mary Beth	597 Troske Ly Hopson	✓		✓	
Dick Bates	120 Agate Lewis town				✗
Kris Newton	119 Sage Hen Lewis town	✓		✓	
Ron Bowen	652 E Fork Rd Lewis town	✓		✓	
Craig Breiler	301 7th Ave So Lewis town	✓		✓	
Mark Good	917 3rd Ave Great Falls	✓		✓	
John & WUPS	412 W. Blvd Lewis town		✓		
Don Best	#130 12th Ave So. Lewis town		✓	✓	
Al Lyle	783 Beacod Ln Lewis town MT	✓		✓	
Jess Wagner	201 Big Sky Lane, Lewis town		✓		✓
Scott Stensberry	906 W. Blvd Lewis town		✓		✓
Henry Cottardi	563 Greatview Lane		✓		✓
Arne Byfuglin	7th Willow Ln.		✓		✓
Joe Sullivan	517 Fawn DR	✓		✓	
Reid Evans	406 W Washington #5		✓		✓

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Tom Lindskog	752 Rife Range RD Lewistown	X		X	
PORK LEWIS	522 W. 6 th E Lew' Town				
Tommy Gies	208 Agate DR h Lewistown				
DAVE McCLARE	530 Trostle Ln Lewistown	X			
Jim Faber	P.O. Box 553 Big Sandy MT	X			X
Darrell Milledge	Box 363 Hobson MT		X		
Barbara Johnson	139 MT Pleasant St Lewistown	X			X
Michael Peterson	139 MT Pleasant St Lewistown	X			X
JOHN BRADLEY	112 1/2 S. 35 th ST. BILLINGS, MT	X			X
TOMY SMITH	712 9 th AVE N LEWISTOWN, MT	X		X	
CLAY DUNLAP	401-7 th AVE. S. APT. 105		X		
GARY LANCHESTER	616 Eaton S Lewistown		X		X
SAIM SHORT	605 E. mt Lewistown		X		X
ART CANFIELD	508 Farnwell St, Lewistown	X			X
Gleann Elison	91 Burdy Beach Rd, Lewistown	X			X
PAUL GRANOT	511 4 th ave S Lewistown MT		X		X
Karl The mag	904 Warr St Lewistown	X			X
Charles A. LaFontaine	605 Lynn Lew. St. Lew. N	X			X
Thomas J. Youngsboro	212 MT Pleasant Lewistown		X		X
JEFF SHELDEN	100 W. Blvd. Lewistown	X			X
KEN JOHNSON	1302 6 th AVE N Lewistown			X	

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Willy WATER	8992 HARVEL RD		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
London Spaulding	813 Hawthorn Ave Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timothy Bland	317 KANEYMANNE AVE LEWISTOWN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DAN POWERS	BOX 127 MOLLISN MT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lois Snelden	206 W BIRD ST LEWISTOWN MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Buehler	301 7th Ave S.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jeanne Denny	528 NE Broadway St		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wendell H. K...	P.O. Box 759 - 145 Birch Dr.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEIDRE CHORD	111 KENDALL RD HILGER MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vic Foose	1296 Cottonwood Cr Rd Lewistown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara	" "		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ron Spohn	611 Main St Winibed, MT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tami Cass	701 5th Ave S Lewistown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Boyle	18422 Bear Springs Rd, Winibed		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curt Bass	801 Horse shoe Bend Lewistown MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John J. Buehler	301 7th Ave S Lewistown MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John J. Buehler	27 Pleasant Dr. "		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KETH REUSKI	7040 MADISON RD LEWISTOWN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Ryan Demandson	1394 S. Buffalo c/n Red Butte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rose Treash	312 1/2 2th South Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DAVE BYOTLY	709 ENTRANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bing Van Bergen	4159 Stockfarm Rd Moccasin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Darrell Tuss	79486 Hwy 87 west Lewistown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
JOE MORINE	65 WICKENS LANE LEWISTOWN MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MATT HELM	2470 JOYLAND LEWISTOWN MT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Matt Pagenz	1532 Cochran Ave, Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Doug Flament	297 Paper Trail Lewistown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rub Denton	104 E Boulevard Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Diane Oldenburg	103 Hillcrest Dr, Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shirley Denny	1587 Stable Eagle Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keith Hartzell	2596 Niskoneck Road	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Shirley P. Bantz	1463 Red Hill Rd - Lew		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grant Lohmuller	3643 LIME KILN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Susan Lohmuller	" " "		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clint Hoorns	1176 W. EVELYN MT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Dee Hill	9605 ARGONIA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Paul Zahler/Kyco					
Dave & Arlene Mann	108 Snowy mtn Dr, Lewistown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cody Bantz	388 Judith Plw Dr, Lewistown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Tom Bjorklund	County	✓			
Paul Gifford	County	✓			
Tom Gifford	County	✓			
Laurie Lohmer	Fergus County	✓			✓
Roger LeHabe	FERGUS	✓			✓
Nowell Kohler	Hayden Creek		✓		
KE WATKINS	Fergus County	✓		✓	
Bob Odell	Fergus	✓			
Bruce Johnson	Fergus		✓		
Alan Green	Hilger				
Blondy King	Lewis town	✓			
Robert King	Lewis town	✓			
Bob Ruckman	"			✓	
David King	"			✓	
James Hark	Lewis town	✓			✓
Keith Wicks	702 W BLVD Lewis town	✓			
Mick Burnham	503 W Shields St	✓			
Chad Chard	111 N. Kendall Rd Hilger MT		✓		
Keith Walter	Fergus County				
David King	Fergus County		✓		✓
David King	Moore Fergus Co		✓		✓

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Shirley Wallard	305 W. Main St. Lewistown	✓			✓
Ted Anderson	108 Hawthorne				✓
Charley Larimer	1353 Skaggs Ln, Lewistown	✓			✓
Lynette Schindler	401 7th St. #209 Lewistown mt.	✓		✓	
Jan Cline	333 Airport Road LT, MT		✓		
Paceel Stansbury	906 W. Boulevard LT, MT		✓	✓	
John Muck	913 W Erie St Lewistown MT		✓	✓	
Ray Muck	1019 HIGHLWOOD Blvd LEWISTOWN		✓	✓	
Diana D. Davis	227 S. Snowy Mountain	✓			✓
Shirley Machelar	117 US Hwy 191 N 59457		✓		
Mark Machelar	117 US Hwy 191 N 59457		✓		
Bob Barber	310 1/2 Ave. West Lewistown		✓	✓	
Robert Williams	1367 MT Highway 239 Hobson MT 59458		✓	✓	
JAMES P MITCHELL	1116 W. Weber Lewistown, MT 59457		✓	✓	
Matt Odell	924 W. Weber St. Lewistown mt		✓	✓	
Chao Munker	227 Snowy Mt Lewt 59457	✓			
Mark Fabian	449 Aspen Trail 59457			✓	
Clint Smith	104 Silver Dr 59457				✓

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Diana DeRosa	207 Snowy Mountain Dr			✓	✓
Alan J. Meier	1111 White St. Lewistown, MT				
James Johnson	34075 Hwy 87 S. Grasskamp, MT			✓	

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		Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Lesley Robinson	Congressman Gianforte			X	
Seni Simpson	549 Wilbur Hill Mesa	X			
Eric VanderBeek	26612 W Concoran Lewis town MT 59457	X			X
Mike Eastman	1607 Golden Eagle DR Lewiston MT 59457		X		X
Joseph Crook	716 Yogo		X	X	
Sally Karinen	1353 Skaggs Ln		X		X
Paul McGowan	611 Reynolds St			X	
Ashleigh Bass	388 Judith view Dr. Lewiston		X	X	