Glenda Wiles

From: Marci Mansfield [marci@montana.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2008 10:44 AM
To: Alan Thompson; Greg Chilcott; Kathleen Driscoll; James Rokosch; Carlotta Grandstaff; Glenda Wiles
Subject: FlatIron Ranch

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing you in support of FlatIron Ranch. Not because I relish the idea of hundreds of new residents, but because growth is inevitable and we need PLANNED communities to accommodate the growth.

As I drive throughout our valley, I'm dismayed by the unchecked development that's scattered willy-nilly. One acre here, three acres there, more wells, more septic systems (never to be monitored again), more loss of ag land and open space. The most frightening aspect is many of these homes are miles away from towns. Requiring drive time for every errand, every kid's event. It's a poor use of our diminishing fossil fuels.

After spending the summer reading such books as "the Party's Over" and "Omnivore's Dilemma" (both of which should be mandatory reading by all Americans) I've been convinced that we as a country need to (quickly) return to the habitat model of our grandparent's generation. Life is centered around town. Farms are outlying. As a nation facing rapidly depleted resources, it will be the only effective way of sustainable living.

I hope the Commissioners as a whole have the foresight to look hard into the near future and make the progressive decision to annex this land. It's truly your responsibility to the next generation to continue to act for a sustainable future. As well as staying the course for zoning. Our kid's futures depend upon your actions today.

Regards,
-Marci Smith
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Victor, MT 59875