



Flathead Basin Commission

655 Timberwolf Parkway
Kalispell, Montana 59901
flatheadbasincommission.org

Chas Cartwright
Chair

Flathead County Commissioners
800 South Main, Room 302
Kalispell, MT 59901-5420

September 24, 2012

Re: Resolution of Intent to Adopt the updated Growth Policy

Dear Flathead County Commissioners:

On July 3, 2012 the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) submitted a letter outlining our concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Flathead County Growth Policy. It is our understanding that on August 29, 2012 the Commissioners passed a Resolution of Intent to Adopt the updated Flathead County Growth Policy. We are submitting this letter asking you to reconsider this Resolution of Intent in order to ensure that the protections enumerated in that current Growth Policy remain in force and effect as these policies do more to protect surface and groundwater resources.

More specifically, we urge you to maintain the existing wastewater treatments policies in Chapter 7, including requirements for: technologically advanced wastewater treatment methods for individual septic systems where they are needed to protect water quality; scientifically defensible protection zones for aquifers susceptible to potential contamination; and restrictions on land division resulting in residential densities greater than an average of one-dwelling unit per five acres in areas of high groundwater not served by sewers.

In addition, we urge you to maintain the existing water quality protection goals in Chapter 8, including requirements for: restrictions on development in the floodway or floodway fringe; and a greenbelt along streams and rivers to protect the quality of water and protect critical wildlife corridors.

The FBC also expressed concerns about amendments related to Part 6 of the preface which deals with conflicts between private property rights and other provisions of the Growth Policy.

Thank you for considering our request to reconsider the Resolution of Intent.

Sincerely,

Chas Cartwright, Chair