

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

5/14 FOSS

CHILCOTT 

IMAN 

STOLTZ 

5/6 BURROWS

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....October 1, 2012

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► At 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Foss and Burrows met with Maintenance Staff at the Courthouse to review the heating and cooling system.

► The Board met at 10:00 a.m. with Civil Counsel Dan Browder to review the last draft of the animal control ordinance and decision to move forward with the ordinance. (See attached draft). Commissioner Foss was not present for this meeting. Commissioner Stoltz stated the original ordinance was a vicious dog ordinance and now the changes address all animals. Commissioner Burrows indicated the Board of Health decided they wanted this ordinance to control cats, and other animals that cause problems. However, in his opinion common sense tells him the county does not have the capacity to pick up all the pets that are running at large.

Dan stated this is a Animal Control Ordinance not just a vicious dog ordinance, and the changes give Law Enforcement the ability to deal with an animal, it does not require it. The Board of Health wanted law enforcement to have more flexibility in dealing with animals. While the MCA allows the Sheriff to deal with animals, this ordinance is easier to enforce. Commissioner Chilcott indicated there would be some unanticipated consequences of including other animals in this ordinance as people would expect law enforcement officers to deal with all animals. Commissioner Stoltz stated the only reason this ordinance draft was reviewed by the Board of Health is because of the rabies/quarantine issue; it was not meant to expand the ordinance to include other animals.

Discussion: Included MCA 7-23-401 which gives legislative authority to the county (liberally construed with ordinance power). The fact that the Board of Health has powers for health and safety regulations. It was agreed that Commissioners Stoltz and Burrows will continue to work on this draft ordinance, bringing it back to the Commissioners and Civil Counsel for further review and discussion.

► At 10:30 a.m. the Board met for the First reading of Sign Ordinance #36. Present was Planning Administrator Terry Nelson who handed out the First Reading (see attached). **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve this Ordinance.** Commissioner Chilcott advised Commissioner Stoltz that Terry should give a staff report and they should take public comment first.

Terry gave a staff report noting numerous discussions were held with the Commissioners. He stated the only change from the last meeting is under Section 8-1-13 which lines out the penalties due to the lack of codification.

Public Comment was then called for.

Glenda presented 5 phone calls and 9 emails that were received against the new ordinance for bigger signs. See attached. (It was later noted that 13 more emails were received prior to this meeting but not opened by staff until after the meeting - see those attachments as well.)

Suzanna McDougal stated she has lived in the valley for 40 years. She stated people come here for the beauty and the current size is working so what change it? She does not like the huge signs on the highway.

Pam Erickson has lived here for 40 years. She has not read the proposed ordinance as she just learned of the meeting. She likes the current ordinance. Tourism dollars are tremendous; in 2008 the total in-direct dollars for the state was 2.7 billion. She asked who made the first complaints of the sign ordinance and what were they? If other members of the public could review those comments, it would help to address the reasons for the requested changes.

Sara Roubik stated the draft is a big increase from current size. Tourism is an important part of our county. She addressed the feet double sided signs noting 336 sq feet is too big for the highway as well as other roads.

David Garten stated other locations are totally ruined by the signs. Signs are tacky and they also need some restriction on lighting. He also asked who initiated the changes. Commissioner Chilcott indicated some citizens felt they needed to increase their sign size for economic purposes.

Commissioner Foss now present.

Michael Howell stated while the extraction of natural resources in the valley dropping, tourism is holding steady. He feels if we want to encourage dollars in our community then the bigger signs will devastate that economy.

Pam Erickson presented some graphs on economy into the record. Sara stated other public comments might be coming in due to her letter to the editors. She too would like to see the other public comments the Commissioners received that are not entered into the public record or correspondence that asked for this ordinance to be changed.

**Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to accept Ordinance #36 as a First Reading. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion.** Discussion: This first reading will give the Commissioners time to review more public comment prior to the second reading. Commissioner Iman stated other parts of the state are going through the same thing Ravalli County is. He feels this change allows visibility in a non-threatening way. The Board concurred the public comments will be reviewed prior to the second reading. **All voted "aye". (5-0)**

▶ The Board met at 1:30 p.m. to continue their discussion of the development of a Natural Resource Policy with public input.

▶ Commissioner Foss and Stoltz attended a STEp committee meeting at 3:30 p.m.

▶ Commissioner Foss attended a City of Hamilton Planning Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

▶ Commissioner Foss attended a Rocky Mountain Lab Community Liaison Group meeting at the Golden Age Club (S. 5th Street) at 7:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 1

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

SECTION:

- 5-1-1: Scope and Purpose
- 5-1-2: Duty
- 5-1-3: Definitions
- 5-1-4: Animal Control Officers
- 5-1-5: Impoundment
- 5-1-6: Redemption of Impounded Pets
- 5-1-7: Presumption of Abandonment
- 5-1-8: Rabies Vaccination Required
- 5-1-9: Cruelty to Animals
- 5-1-10: Vicious Dogs
- 5-1-11: Quarantine
- 5-1-12: Dogs Harassing Livestock
- 5-1-13: Penalties
- 5-1-14: Disposition of Funds

5-1-1: SCOPE AND PURPOSE:

A. **PURPOSES:** This Ordinance [chapter] is intended to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of the County.

B. **AUTHORITY:** This Ordinance [chapter] is adopted under Title 7, Chapter 23, Part 21, MCA, as well as under the County's general police power to maintain public health and safety.

C. **TO PROTECT AND CONTROL PETS:** This Ordinance [chapter] is designed to protect and control pets, especially dogs. ~~This Ordinance [chapter] includes: (1) the control of dangerous vicious dogs, dogs running at large or abandoned, sick or injured dogs and dogs that are deemed nuisances; and (2) the use of confinement and quarantine as means of control and protection.~~

D. **LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS:** Dogs engaged in law enforcement duties by a public law enforcement agency and by a sworn law enforcement officer are not subject to this Ordinance.

E. **ORDINANCE [CHAPTER] DOES NOT ABSOLVE OWNERS OF OTHER LIABILITY:** This Ordinance [chapter] is not to be construed as absolving an animal owner of civil or criminal liability for the acts of his or her animal. The provisions of this Ordinance [chapter] do not displace any other potential criminal action or displace a private civil action.

5-1-2: DUTY:

It shall be the duty of every owner of any dog or other pet or anyone having any dog or other pet in his or her possession to exercise reasonable care and to take all necessary steps and precautions to protect other people, their property and animals

from injuries or damage that might result from such pet's behavior.

**5-1-3: DEFINITIONS:**

- A. ANIMAL:** "Animal" means nonhuman animal species, including all livestock, pets, and wild animals.
- B. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** "Animal Control Officer" means any sworn law enforcement officer as well as an animal control officer designated by the County.
- C. AT LARGE:** "At large" means a dog or other pet off the premises of its owner, or off the premises of another person charged with the care of the dog or other pet, and not under the immediate control of its owner or authorized agent of the owner, either by: (1) A leash, tether, lead or other physical control device; or (2) Voice restraint or signal control of a person capable of controlling, subduing, or restraining the pet.
- D. BITE:** "Bite" means a wound, bruise, laceration or puncture inflicted on a person or animal by the teeth of a dog or other pet.
- E. BUSINESS DAY:** "Business Day" means a day that the individual business or governmental agency, as the context requires, is actually open to the public.
- F. DESIGNATED FACILITY:** "Designated Facility" means a facility designed to hold house animals designated by the BCC for purposes of this Ordinance [chapter].
- G. DOG:** "Dog" means any member of *Canis familiaris* or any other combination of *Canis familiaris* and other *Canis* species, including, but not limited to, so called wolf-dog or coyote-dog crosses, which is kept primarily as a pet.
- H. HARASS:** "Harass" means to worry, chase, or run after livestock in a manner that may lead to subsequent injury to the livestock.
- I. IMPOUND:** "Impound" means the taking of a dog or other pet into the County's custody or into the custody of a facility designated by the County.
- J. LEASH:** "Leash" means any flexible lead, including nylon leashes, cords, ropes, suitable light chains or other similar device of suitable strength to restrain or control a pet to which attached.
- K. LIVESTOCK:** "Livestock" means domesticated poultry (including but not limited to chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pigeons, and pheasants, § 81-2-702, MCA), cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, llamas, alpacas, bison, swine, ostriches, rheas, emus, rabbits, goats, "alternative livestock" as defined in § 87-

4-406, MCA, and other animals raised for the purpose of labor, food, food products, or profit. For purposes of this Ordinance [chapter], all livestock are considered the personal property of their owners. (2012 Code)

**L. OWNER:** "Owner" means any person harboring, keeping or having control or custody of an animal, or any person having any financial interest, right, or ownership in the animal and also includes any person who permits an animal to remain on or about the premises occupied by that person.

**M. PET:** "Pet" means any domesticated animal normally maintained in or near the household of its owner and whose primary purpose is companionship and not for food or food production.

**N. QUARANTINE:** "Quarantine" means to confine an animal in strict isolation inside a building, cage, pen or other enclosure, so that contact between the confined animal and any person or any other animal is not possible.

**O. RABIES VACCINATION:** "Rabies vaccination" means the inoculation of an animal with anti-rabies vaccine administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, in accordance with the current edition of the "Compendium of Animal Rabies Control", published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

**P. VICIOUS DOG:** Subject to the following exceptions listed below, "vicious dog" means any dog that bites or attempts to bite any human being without provocation or that harasses, chases, bites, or attempts to bite any other animal. (§ 7-23-2109, MCA.)

**Q. VICIOUS DOG, EXCEPTIONS:** A dog shall not be deemed vicious if any of the following applies:

1. The dog bites, attacks or menaces a person or animal that (a) assaults the owner; (b) trespasses on the property of the owner; or (c) is in the act of tormenting or abusing the dog or its offspring.
2. The dog is otherwise acting in defense of an attack from a person or other animal upon the owner or other person.
3. The dog is a law enforcement dog following the lawful direction of a sworn law enforcement officer.

**R. WILD ANIMAL:** "Wild animal" means any animal that is wild by nature and is not commonly domesticated, and is not being kept as a pet or livestock. (Ordinance No. 16)

**5-1-4: ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS:**

Any Animal Control Officer may enforce the provisions of this Ordinance [chapter] and is delegated the power and authority as

may be required to implement and enforce this Ordinance [chapter], as well as powers incident to implementing and enforcing this Ordinance [chapter].

**5-1-5: IMPOUNDMENT:**

**A. POWER TO IMPOUND:** An Animal Control Officer may impound any of the following:

1. Any animal that an Animal Control Officer believes to be a potential threat to public health or safety, or that is out of compliance with this Ordinance [chapter].
2. Any dog or other pet running at large.
3. Any vicious dog kept or handled in violation of this Ordinance [chapter].

**B. IMPOUNDED PETS:** If a dog or other pet is impounded, the dog or other pet shall be taken to a designated facility at the owner's expense.

**5-1-6: REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED PETS:**

**A. PROCEDURE:** The owner of any impounded pet may redeem the pet according to the policies and fees of the designated facility.

**B. COUNTY FEES FOR REDEEMING IMPOUNDED PETS:** The County may assess impound fees in addition to fees charged by a designated facility.

**5-1-7: PRESUMPTION OF ABANDONMENT:**

Any impounded animal that goes unclaimed by its owner or owner's representative for more than ten business days, or any animal whose owner fails to pay the expenses of impoundment for more than ten days may be declared abandoned, and shall conclusively be considered legally abandoned by the pet's owner and ownership of that pet may be transferred or the County or its agent may take any action regarding the animal, including euthanasia.

**5-1-8: RABIES VACCINATION REQUIRED:**

**A. VACCINATION REQUIRED:** Except for licensed veterinarian facilities, grooming parlors, pet stores, a Humane Society facility, and the County animal shelter (if applicable), it shall be a violation of this Ordinance [chapter] to keep, harbor, or maintain any dog over the age of four (4) months without a current rabies vaccination. All dogs must be re-vaccinated within one (1) year, then every three (3) years thereafter.

**B. RECORD KEEPING:** Record of rabies vaccinations shall be kept by all licensed veterinarians administering the rabies vaccines and the Ravalli County Board of Health, the County, or the County Health Officer may require the reporting of such records.

Comment [d1]: Require cats to be vaccinated?

**5-1-9: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:**

Persons knowingly or negligently cruel to animals may be in violation of the State cruelty law (see § 45-8-211, MCA).

**5-1-10: VICIOUS DOGS:**

**A. VICIOUS DOGS RESTRICTED:** A person may not keep, harbor, or maintain any vicious dog in the County unless the dog is secured in one of the following ways:

1. The dog is securely and adequately confined upon the property of the owner or other person having charge, care, or control of such dog so as not to injure any person or damage any property, or be a hazard to public health and safety.
2. The dog is properly restrained and leashed on a line not to exceed six feet (6') in length, properly muzzled, and under the immediate control of a person of suitable age and capacity to control, subdue, and restrain such dog.

**B. IMPOUNDING OF VICIOUS DOGS:** If any vicious dog is not being effectively secured as provided for in this section, an Animal Control Officer or agent may impound, restrain, control, quarantine or, if the animal is an immediate threat to the health and safety of the Officer or another person or animal, kill the dog.

**5-1-11: QUARANTINE:**

**A. VACCINATION STATUS:** An Animal Control Officer shall attempt to ascertain the rabies vaccination status of any dog or other pet involved in a bite incident.

**B. PETS WITHOUT PROOF OF VACCINATION:** If an Animal Control Officer believes that a pet that has bitten a person has no proof of current rabies vaccination, the pet shall be quarantined for a period of at least 10 days from the date of the bite, or for a longer period if determined to be appropriate by the Animal Control Officer. After the quarantine period, the pet shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian and vaccinated, both at the owner's expense. A record of the veterinarian exam and vaccination shall be provided to the Animal Control Officer and to the County Public Health Department. If the veterinarian determines that the pet remained healthy during the quarantine period, the pet may be released. If a veterinarian determines that a quarantined pet displays any sign of illness, the veterinarian shall determine the appropriate course of action, which may range from an extended quarantine period to euthanasia. Pets displaying clinical signs of rabies infection and pets that die for any reason during the quarantine period shall be tested for rabies by the State veterinary diagnostic laboratory, which requires submission of fresh brain tissue.

**C. PETS WITH PROOF OF VACCINATION:**

1. If an Animal Control Officer believes a pet that has bitten a person is healthy, and there is proof the pet has current rabies vaccination, the pet shall be confined at home and the owner shall observe the pet for clinical signs of illness daily for at least ten (10) days.

2. If an Animal Control Officer [or Public Health?] believes a vaccinated pet that has bitten a person is not healthy or has reason to believe a vaccinated pet should be observed, the pet may be quarantined according to the provisions of subsection A.

**D. NO IMMUNIZATION DURING QUARANTINE:** No immunizations for rabies may be administered to a quarantined pet during the quarantine period.

**E. EUTHANASIA OR QUARANTINE OF UNVACCINATED DOGS EXPOSED TO A RABID ANIMAL:** Unvaccinated pets exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized. If the owner is unwilling to allow a pet to be euthanized, an Animal Control Officer may order that the animal be quarantined according to the current "Compendium Of Animal Rabies Prevention And Control," and may impound the animal.

**5-1-12: DOGS HARASSING LIVESTOCK:**

**A. VIOLATION:** The owner of a dog, whether licensed or not, that, while off the premises owned by its owner or under control of its owner and on property owned, leased, or controlled by the livestock owner, harasses, kills, wounds, or injures livestock not belonging to the owner of the dog is in violation of this Ordinance [chapter] and State law. (§ 81-7-401, MCA.)

**B. DOG HARASSING LIVESTOCK MAY BE KILLED:** Any dog that harasses, kills, wounds, or injures livestock according to subsection A above, may be killed immediately by the livestock owner, his agent or employee, subject to the following exceptions: in no case may a dog be killed in a manner that will endanger a person, and this subsection does not apply to a dog herding livestock under the direction of its owner or the agents or employees of its owner, and this section does not apply to a dog engaged in legitimate sport hunting or predator control activities under the direction of its owner or the agents or employees of its owner

**C. OWNER LIABILITY:** In addition to the remedies in this Ordinance [chapter], the dog owner is civilly liable to the livestock owner for damage caused by said dog harassing, wounding, injuring or killing livestock under § 81-7-402, MCA.

**5-1-13: EUTHANIZATION**

| The County may petition Ravalli County Justice Court or the

Twenty-First Judicial District Court to allow the County to euthanize any animal that constitutes a potential threat to public health or safety.

**5-1-13: PENALTIES:**

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, violation of any section of this Ordinance [chapter] shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a minimum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not to exceed a maximum fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

B. Upon a person's conviction of violating this Ordinance [chapter], a judge may order that the person's vicious dog, or any animal owned by that person that constitutes a potential threat to public health or safety, be euthanized.

**5-1-14: DISPOSITION OF FUNDS:**

All fines, fees or funds in general derived from the enforcement of this Ordinance [chapter] shall be paid into the County Treasury and designated as the Ravalli County Animal Protection fund. This does not include any amounts required to be paid to Ravalli County Justice Court under State law.

**CHAPTER 1****SIGNS; OUTDOOR ADVERTISING**

## SECTION:

- 8-1-1: Purpose
- 8-1-2: Authority
- 8-1-3: Applicability
- 8-1-4: Definitions
- 8-1-5: Permit Administration
- 8-1-6: Permit and Fee
- 8-1-7: General Standards
- 8-1-8: Construction Standards
- 8-1-9: Variances
- 8-1-10: Variance Criteria
- 8-1-11: Nonconforming Signs
- 8-1-12: Exemptions
- 8-1-13: Violation; Penalty
- 8-1-14: Severability

**8-1-1: PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Section is intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- A. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed, and maintained so that public safety and traffic safety are not compromised.
- B. To minimize the distractions and the obstructing-of-view that contributes to traffic hazards and endangers public safety.
- C. To encourage a high standard for signs in order that they should be appropriate to create an aesthetic environment that contributes to the ability of the county to attract sources of economic development and growth.
- D. To allow for adequate and effective signs for communicating identification while preventing signs from dominating the visual appearance of the area in which they are located.

**8-1-2: AUTHORITY:**

The BCC adopts this Ordinance under the County's general legislative power to provide for public health, welfare, and safety. Mont. Const. Art. XI, Sec. 4; §§ 7-5-2101, -2102; 51 Op. Atty. Gen. Mont. 51 (2005). In addition, the BCC adopts this Ordinance under its express authority under sections 7-14-2101, -2102, MCA, and under its authority to "maintain, control, and regulate "sidewalks, streets and highways under their jurisdiction," by "enacting as ordinances . . . any other law regulating traffic, pedestrians, vehicles, and operators of vehicles that are not in conflict with state law or federal regulations and enforcing the ordinance." Section 61-12-101, MCA.

**8-1-3: APPLICABILITY:**

This chapter shall apply in all of the unincorporated areas of the County not covered by 75-15-111 MCA (Highway 93). Nothing contained herein shall prohibit more restrictive covenants, easements, agreements, or zoning for any particular area.

**8-1-4: DEFINITIONS:**

A. General Definitions: Defined terms specific to this chapter are described in the subsections below. Words and phrases not specifically defined in this chapter shall have their usual and customary meaning in the context of sign regulation and land use planning.

B. ABANDONED SIGN: A sign that no longer correctly directs or advises any person, advertises a bona fide business, lessor, owner, product or activity conducted or product available.

C. BILLBOARD: An off-premise object, device, display, sign, or structure, or part thereof, displayed outdoors or visible from a public way, which is used to advertise, identify, display, or direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location, or to express a point of view, by any means, including words letters, figures, symbols, advertising flags, fixtures, colors, illuminations, or projected images. Each substantially different face of a billboard structure shall constitute a separate billboard. Billboards do not include on-premise commercial or political signage or small commercial or non-commercial signs temporarily placed in residential lawns by residents, owners, contractors, realtors, or by or on behalf of political

candidates or issues.

D. COMMERCIAL SIGN. A sign containing copy that relates primarily to the economic interests of the publisher or its audience or directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service, activity, institution, product or entertainment offered for sale.

E. MAXIMUM TOTAL HEIGHT: The vertical distance from elevation of the finished grade at the structure to the highest point of the sign structure.

F. NON-COMMERCIAL SIGN. A sign containing copy that does not relate primarily to the economic interests of the publisher or its audience nor directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service, activity, institution, product or entertainment offered for sale.

G. OFF-PREMISE SIGN: A sign directing attention to a specific business, product, service, entertainment event or activity, or other commercial activity that is not sold, produced, manufactured, furnished, or conducted at the property upon which the sign is located. This shall include billboards.

H. SIGN: A structure or device designed or intended to convey information to the public in written or pictorial form.

I. SIGN ADMINISTRATOR: The designated County official responsible for administering the provisions of this chapter. These activities may include, but are not limited to, reviewing applications, issuing/denying permits, inspecting signs, and interpreting and enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance.

**8-1-5: PERMIT ADMINISTRATION:**

SIGN ADMINISTRATOR: A sign administrator shall be appointed by the Administrator of the County Planning Department, who shall administer and enforce this chapter.

**8-1-6: PERMIT AND FEE:**

A. PERMIT REQUIRED: A sign permit shall be required for any non-exempt off-premise sign greater than 35 square feet allowed by this chapter.

B. PERMIT APPLICATIONS: Applications for sign permits shall be obtained in the County Planning Department. The applicant shall

provide information requested by the Sign Administrator, including a signed and dated landowner statement that the landowner consents to the erection and maintenance of the sign on the property.

C. PERMIT FEE: A sign permit fee, established by resolution of the BCC, shall be charged for each individual sign erected, as allowed by this chapter. These fees are intended to provide for the costs of administration and enforcement of this chapter.

**8-1-7: GENERAL STANDARDS:**

A. APPLICANT TO MEET ALL STANDARDS: All off-premise signs subject to this chapter must meet the general standards in the subsections below.

B. HEIGHT: No off-premise sign shall exceed a maximum of Thirty feet (30') in elevation above the elevation of the centerline of the adjacent roadway.

C. SEPARATION: All off-premise signs shall be separated a minimum of five hundred feet (500') from the nearest off-premise sign on the same side of the roadway.

D. SIZE: No off-premise sign shall exceed the maximum of Three hundred thirty six (336) square feet in area. The sign area shall be determined by the exterior of one side of the sign face.

E. LIGHTING: Lighting shall only be allowed so as to illuminate the message on the face of the sign. Full Cutoff lighting is required so that no lighting shall be reflected onto the adjacent roadway, adjoining properties or into the sky. No off-premise signs shall have flashing or blinking lights, movement or moving parts, or simulate motion with reflective parts. All electrical work associated with a lighted sign must be completed by an electrical contractor, bonded and licensed by the State of Montana.

F. IDENTIFICATION: Every off-premise sign permitted by these regulations shall have an identification of the County Permit Number and County Sign Administrator contact information attached to the sign structure.

G. MAINTENANCE: All signs shall be continuously maintained. If any sign is found not to be so maintained or is in need of repair, it shall be the duty of the owner and the occupant of

the premises to repair or remove the sign within ten days after receiving written notice to do so from the Sign Administrator. If the sign is not so repaired or removed within such time, the Sign Administrator shall cause the sign to be removed at the expense of the owner of the premises.

**8-1-8: CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS:**

- A. MINIMUM STANDARDS: All off-premise signs shall meet the following minimum construction standards in the subsections below.
- B. APPLICABLE CODES: All requirements of applicable building and electrical codes.
- C. ANCHORING:
1. No sign shall be suspended by non-rigid attachments that will allow the sign to swing or sway.
  2. All freestanding signs shall have self-supporting structures erected on or permanently attached to concrete foundations.
  3. All temporary signs, as allowed under section 8-1-12 of this chapter, shall be braced or secured so as to prevent any motion.
  4. All signs shall be constructed of durable materials and maintained as described in 8-1-7.

**8-1-9: VARIANCES; APPLICATION; NOTICE OF MEETING:**

- A. BCC TO CONSIDER VARIANCE APPLICATIONS: The BCC may grant a reasonable variance from the standards of this chapter.
- B. FORMS: Applications for variances shall be filed with the Planning Department on forms provided by the sign administrator. The variance application form shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to any decision by the board.
- C. NOTICE: A public notice, at the expense of the applicant, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least fifteen (15) days prior to the board meeting for action on the variance.

**8-1-10: VARIANCE CRITERIA:**

A. APPLICANT TO DEMONSTRATE VARIANCE CRITERIA ARE MET: No variance shall be granted unless the applicant can provide sufficient evidence for the BCC to find that all the variance criteria are met.

B. CRITERIA:

1. Compliance with the provision for which a variance is sought constitutes a hardship that is created by the strict application of this chapter. A financial hardship does not constitute sole grounds for a variance.
2. Special conditions and/or circumstances exist which are specific to the site and which are not generally applicable to other sites.
3. Granting the variance will not confer on the applicant any special privilege compared to other landowners.
4. Granting the variance will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this chapter.
5. Granting the variance will not substantially affect the rights of other landowners.

C. CONDITIONS: The BCC may condition variance approval upon appropriate conditions and safeguards in conformity with this chapter. Violation of such conditions and/or safeguards, when made a part of the terms upon which the variance is granted, shall be deemed a violation of this chapter.

**8-1-11: NONCONFORMING SIGNS:**

Signs not conforming to the requirements of this Ordinance, and which were legally erected prior to the adoption of the Ordinance are permissible nonconforming signs. Any such sign shall be brought into compliance under the following circumstances:

A. At such time as the sign is replaced or relocated;

1. Changing the sign face does not constitute replacement.

B. At such time as the sign is abandoned for a period of six months or more after being contacted by the Sign Administrator;

**8-1-12: EXEMPTIONS:**

A. EXEMPT SIGNS: The signs in the subsections below are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Exempt signs shall not exceed thirty-six (36) square feet in area, including border and trim, but excluding base or apron, supports and other structural members.

1. NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS: A sign containing copy that does not relate primarily to the economic interests of the publisher or its audience nor directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service, activity, institution, product or entertainment offered for sale.
2. TEMPORARY SIGNS: A sign used for temporary purposes. No temporary sign may be erected for more than one-hundred-twenty (120) days.

**8-1-13: VIOLATION; PENALTY:**

A. VIOLATIONS: Any person, firm, or corporation that violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Criminal responsibilities of firms or corporations shall be governed by relevant provisions of 45-2-311 and 45-2-312, MCA.

B. SIGN CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT PERMIT: Without limiting the applicability of the previous subsection, a penalty of \$100 shall be assessed to the cost of a sign permit for any sign construction that commenced prior to obtaining the required permit.

**8-1-14: [TEMPORARY UNTIL CODIFICATION] SEVERABILITY**

If any part of portions of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall nonetheless continue in effect.

10/1/2012

David Garten 3-5603 called and stated he does not want the current ordinance changed to larger signs. He lived in the Cincinnati, Ohio area and they had signs that destroyed the area roads. Larger does not mean better.

10/1/2012

Annon Male says we don't need larger signs - it is garbage to change the ordinance and allow bigger signs.

10/1/2012

Carol Spencer - 281 N. Gold Creek Loop 363-1977 is against larger signs along Highway 93, especially the 32 sq. foot size

10/1/2012

Jan Smith - 813 Peppergrass is opposed to the larger size billboards (also emailed)

10/1/2012

Linda Packett of Darby 821-3683 is opposed to increasing the size of billboards along the roads, especially Highway 93

**Glenda Wiles**

*Read Oct 1*

---

**From:** Ed Pomelear [epomelear@rmbible.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 6:34 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Ordinance

Please DO NOT increase the size billboards may be within the county. We live in a beautiful Valley with some extraordinary God-given views of His creation. Allow us to continue to see them without having to look around commercials.

Pressing on,  
Ed Pomelear  
Christ's Bible Church  
Rocky Mountain Bible Mission

><}}>

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:14

Glenda Wiles

Read Oct 1

---

**From:** Ann Harding [annmontana11@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 7:59 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign ordinance

To the Ravalli County Board of Commissioners;

DON'T MESS WITH OUR SIGN ORDINANCE !!

Ann Harding  
325 Main St  
Hamilton  
363-6684

**Glenda Wiles**

---

*Read Oct 1*

**From:** Jan Maul-Smith [janmaulsmith@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Ordinance - I am opposed

Dear Commissioners,

I have recently learned of a proposed sign ordinance that will allow double billboard size signs along Route 93 in our valley. I am strongly opposed to this ordinance. When I first moved here 20 years ago, 93 was a beautiful scenic byway that was noted on maps as such. Over the years it has become more commercial; and I am not opposed to commercialization. However, I believe that the current billboard size is quite adequate for getting out any message that businesses or organizations wish to post in this place. I moved here for the scenery; I stay here because of the views. Please do not pass this ordinance.

Jan Maul-Smith  
813 Peppergrass Lane  
Corvallis, MT 59828

---

**From:** gale [galemt@cybernet1.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign ordinance comment....

We are opposed to changing the county sign ordinance as it stands now. We strongly urge you to protect one of the most important economic resources of Ravalli County...it's scenic resources. Some people may feel that you "can't eat the scenery" but the fact is that our valley scenery is a selling point for tourists and businesses promoting life style advantages of Ravalli County. There is no good reason to degrade the important scenic resources of the valley to benefit only a few individuals. The citizens of the county already made this point in 2000. Please respect that decision. Thank you. Gil and Debra Gale, Corvallis, MT

**Glenda Wiles**

---

*read Oct 1*

**From:** Judith Burhop [jmburhop@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Website Email -

Please don't let that ordinance you through that allows double billboard size on Rt. 93. That sound s really ugly and will not help tourists enjoy our fantastic scenery. Please keep the size of signs much smaller!!  
Thank you!! Judith Burhop

Glenda Wiles

*Referenced*

**From:** Amy Monteith [monteithamy@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Sign Ordinance Changes

*Oct 7  
but not  
read*

Sept. 30, 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that you are soliciting public comment regarding proposed changes to the current sign ordinance on Highway 93 and other roads in Ravalli County. I understand that your proposal is to allow for much larger signs on both the highway and county roads, and that the size increase on Highway 93 is 2000% from the current permissible size, or 48' x 14'. I am also concerned that your proposed ordinance change would relinquish our right to regulate the size of billboards along the highway. What is the purpose of this extraordinary increase/change in ordinance of signs along Ravalli County roadways?

In 2000, I was part of a large group of Ravalli County citizens that were alarmed by and concerned with the huge and unsightly 672 square foot billboards that went up along the highway in Stevensville, just north of Kootenai Creek Road. We worked together, with the Ravalli County Commissioners, to adopt a sign ordinance that was an acceptable compromise. Ravalli County citizens did not want large, unsightly billboards on our highways or county roads. I understand that you are proposing dramatic changes that we, the citizens of Ravalli County, adapted in 2000.

Then and now, my position remains the same. I wonder if you are considering these viewpoints:

1. We live in valley of tremendous natural beauty and resources. People live and visit here because of the incredible scenery, abundant natural resources, recreational opportunities, open space, and our unique agricultural heritage. Having huge, unsightly 48' x 14' signs along the highway 93 corridor completely defies all of these attributes, and all that brings people and their revenue to this beautiful place.
2. Why do we need a tremendous increase in size to billboards in Ravalli County? What purpose to the county will they serve? Have you or has anyone studied the benefits of the natural beauty and the revenue that brings to the Bitterroot Valley, and compared it to the ugliness and devastation, and such large billboards would bring to Ravalli County roadways? I would respectfully challenge you to give me an argument for the need for this 2,000 % size increase. These intrusive billboards would take away from the inherent natural beauty of the Bitterroot Valley, and thus adversely affect the revenue we see from both tourists and those who choose to make Ravalli County their home.
3. Who are these billboards serving? Recently, the city of Hamilton restricted the use of cell phones because we don't want distracted drivers in our community. Billboards are a HUGE distraction, especially the proposed 672 square foot billboards. Please explain why you want to encourage distracted drivers on our highways and county roads? Why do you want to people to be shopping while they are driving?
4. The above stated objections also apply to the proposed changes for a significant increase to signs along our county roads. It makes no sense to increase the opportunity for unsightly, distracting sign pollution throughout our beautiful county.

I am writing to ask you to not make any changes to the regulations "we the people" set into place in 2000, when we adopted the current sign ordinance. Please help preserve the natural beauty and unique agricultural heritage that make the Bitterroot Valley a great place to both live and visit—now and into our future. Isn't that the duty of an elected county commission?

Sincerely,

Amy Monteith  
281 Wilcox Lane  
Corvallis, MT 59828

--

Amy Monteith

**Glenda Wiles**

---

*Read Oct 1*

**From:** Judy Paul [scamp2225@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 8:04 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Ordinance

Ravalli County Commissioners:

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE CURRENT SIGN ORDINANCE! I had not realized that changes to allow an increase in the size of highway billboards were being considered until reading a letter on this topic in the 9/30/12 issue of the Ravalli Republic. For all the reasons included in that letter from Sarah and Andy Roubik I urge you to keep the size restrictions currently on the books.

Thank you for your consideration of my stand on this issue.

Judith A. Paul  
2004 Mountain View Orchard Rd.  
Corvallis, MT 59828  
(406-961-3029)

Read Oct 1

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Chris Maul-Smith [chrismaulsmith@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 9:36 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Signs along Hwy 93

Dear Commissioners,

I have recently learned of a proposed sign ordinance that will allow double billboard size signs along Route 93 in our valley. I am strongly opposed to this ordinance. When I first moved here 20 years ago, 93 was a beautiful scenic byway that was noted on maps as such. Over the years it has become more commercial; and I am not opposed to commercialization. However, I believe that the current billboard size is quite adequate for getting out any message that businesses or organizations wish to post in this place. I moved here for the scenery; I stay here because of the views. Please do not pass this ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of my concern.  
Chris Maul-Smith

Read Oct 1

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Krausemarlys@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 9:32 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign ordinance

HI, PLEASE LEAVE SIGN ORDINANCE AS IS. THANK YOU, BOB & MARLYS

Submitted by  
Pam Erickson  
10/1/12 during  
public comment  
for Ordinance #36  
(Sign ordinance)

## **TRAVEL AND THE ECONOMY**

Travel volume in Montana and the United States is influenced by economic conditions at the local, national and global levels. Conversely, travel to and within Montana affects the state economy, along with local economies within the state. As this report briefly shows, the travel industry can have considerable impact on a region's economic conditions, while itself being strongly influenced by economic conditions elsewhere. Changes in the economy have the power to impact travel volume and travel spending, which in turn affects the related economic benefits associated with travel spending. Much of this spending serves to redistribute funds to where people travel, such as from urban to rural areas or from rapidly growing areas to slower-growing ones.

### ***Travel and Tourism: A Powerful Economic Force***

Tourism's contribution to Montana's economy had been on an upward trend until 2008 when gas prices and the recent recession began affecting travel. In 2009, total impacts by nonresident travelers to Montana were \$2.3 billion in total industry output (Table 1). These economic impacts contributed to the generation of over 25,000 jobs, and over \$660 million in personal income. Nonresident travel-generated taxes at the state and local levels amounted to nearly \$153 million, while federal tax revenue exceeded \$141 million.

Part of the state tax revenue is generated by nonresident travelers' contributions to the statewide Accommodations Tax (currently at 7%). Three percent of the seven percent goes to the State General Fund. The remaining four percent is distributed to the Montana Historical Society, the University Travel Research Program, the Department of Revenue, Montana State parks, the Montana Trade Program and the Department of Commerce, which in turn distributes funds to communities and regions across the state. Further tax discussion is provided in the Travel-Generated Tax Revenue section.

### ***Travel Throughout the Economic Cycle***

Due to its economic diversity, and in contrast to many other industries, the travel industry is often considered to be relatively resistant to recessions. Although travelers are likely to take shorter trips, less expensive trips, or fewer business trips, historically, they have still traveled enough to keep the travel industry growing during recessionary periods. One recent exception is the recession of 1991-92, which coincided with the Gulf War and its inflating effect on fuel prices. In late-2000, on the other hand, as the overall economy started showing signs of a slow-down, strong consumer confidence and persistent consumer spending contributed to continued growth of the industry. Tourism took a hit as the effects of September 11, 2001 rippled through the economy, but the industry quickly rebounded. Extremely high fuel prices in the summer of 2008, as well as the first effects of the recession hitting the nation's economy, contributed to the first decrease in visitation and nonresident traveler spending in Montana in years.

In the years following a recession, the travel industry has a tendency to lag behind the overall growth rate in the economy. At this point in the economic cycle, leisure travel has to compete with the purchases of durable goods such as refrigerators and television sets--items that consumers have put off buying during the recessionary period. At the same time, consumers are planning for future travel due to improved economic conditions.

The strong economic growth for most of the 1990s benefited Montana as a travel destination, but not to the same degree as other destinations (i.e., Florida, Hawaii, international destinations). Part of this is due to travelers going on once-in-a-lifetime vacations to exotic destinations because of their increased

incomes and job security. Other travelers simply vacationed more often to the major tourist destinations (resorts, amusement parks, etc.).

The economic downturn of late-2000 through late-2003 had less effect on Montana's travel industry than it did for much of the country. In those more difficult economic times, compounded by the events of September 11, 2001, travelers sought out more affordable domestic destinations and ones they perceived as safe, qualities that Montana could satisfy. Many travelers who might have wanted to visit Montana in the past, but did not make the trip, now had more reasons to visit the state. Likewise, travelers looking for ways to offset the high cost of fuel on their vacations, affecting not only the cost of driving to destinations, but the cost of flying as well, may opt to stay closer to home, drive rather than fly (particularly families), and choose less expensive vacation spots, such as national parks or state parks, over resort vacations or amusement parks.

In addition to the high cost of fuel affecting people's travel decisions, the recession was clearly taking a toll on people's lifestyles by late in 2008, further affecting many of their economic decisions, including whether or not to travel. Travel and tourism decreased nationwide, and Montana did not escape the downward trend during the last two years.

**Table 1: Economic Impacts<sup>1</sup> of Nonresident Travel in Montana, 2009**

Key Measurement	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Induced Impact	Total Impact
<b>2008 Impacts (2009\$)</b>				
Total Industry Output <sup>2</sup>	\$1,838,200,000	\$520,900,000	\$424,700,000	\$2,783,900,000
Contribution to Individuals				
Personal Income <sup>3</sup>	\$529,600,000	\$135,300,000	\$124,900,000	\$789,800,000
Employment <sup>4</sup>	23,330	3,760	4,070	31,160
Contribution to Governments				
Federal Taxes	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$168,600,000
State/Local Taxes	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$180,200,000
<b>2009 Impacts</b>				
Total Industry Output <sup>2</sup>	\$1,541,400,000	\$429,600,000	\$357,300,000	\$2,328,300,000
Contribution to Individuals				
Personal Income <sup>3</sup>	\$446,700,000	\$110,000,000	\$104,500,000	\$661,200,000
Employment <sup>4</sup>	19,160	2,980	3,340	25,480
Contribution to Governments				
Federal Taxes	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$141,600,000
State/Local Taxes	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$152,900,000

Source: ITRR.

<sup>1</sup>Definitions: *Direct impacts* result from the purchases of goods and services made by nonresident travelers; *Indirect impacts* result from the purchases made by travel-related businesses (e.g., suppliers); *Induced impacts* result from purchases by those employed in travel-related occupations. The *total impact* is the sum of these impacts.

<sup>2</sup>Industry output is defined as the value of an industry's total production.

<sup>3</sup>Comprises both employee compensation and proprietor income.

<sup>4</sup>Includes full-and part-time annual jobs.

## TRAVEL VOLUME

### *Nonresident Travel in Montana*

- Nonresident travel to Montana, including both pleasure and business travel<sup>6</sup>, decreased in 2009 to just under 10 million individual travelers, which was nearly level with 2008 visitation. Overall, the 2009 figure is a 0.1 percent decrease from 2008 and a 6.0 percent increase over 1999 visitation (Table 2, Figure 1).
- Nonresident travel *groups* (2.44 nonresident travelers per group) increased 0.2 percent from 2008 to 2009 (Table 2, Figure 2). Over the 11-year period from 1999 to 2009, groups of nonresident travelers increased a cumulative 5.2 percent.
- Of the 4,684,000 people who visited Montana during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009 (July-September), 56 percent were here primarily for vacation, and 17 percent were visiting friends or relatives (Figure 3). During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2009 (October-December), 1,423,000 people visited the state, of whom 29 percent were passing through, 24 percent were visiting friends or relatives, and 23 percent were vacationing (Figure 4).

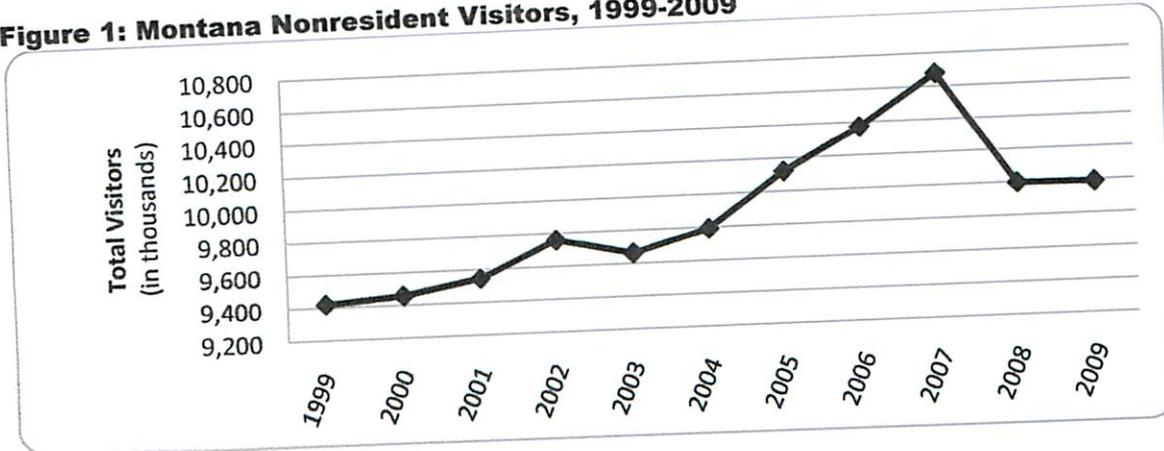
**Table 2: Montana Nonresident Travel Volume, 1999-2009**

Year	Nonresident Visitors	Percent change from previous year	Nonresident Travel Groups	Percent change from previous year
1999	9,428,000	1.6%	3,900,000	1.6%
2000	9,465,000	0.4	3,916,000	0.4
2001	9,552,000	0.9	3,931,000	0.4
2002	9,767,000	2.3	4,009,000	2.0
2003	9,670,000	-1.0	4,177,000	4.2
2004	9,800,000	1.3	4,241,000	1.5
2005	10,126,000	3.3	4,129,000	-2.6
2006	10,378,000	2.5	4,236,000	2.6
2007	10,684,000	2.9	4,360,000	2.9
2008	10,000,000	-6.4	4,092,000	-6.1
2009	9,992,000	-0.1	4,101,000	0.2
Total Increase 1999-2009	564,000	6.0%	201,000	5.2%

Source: ITRR.

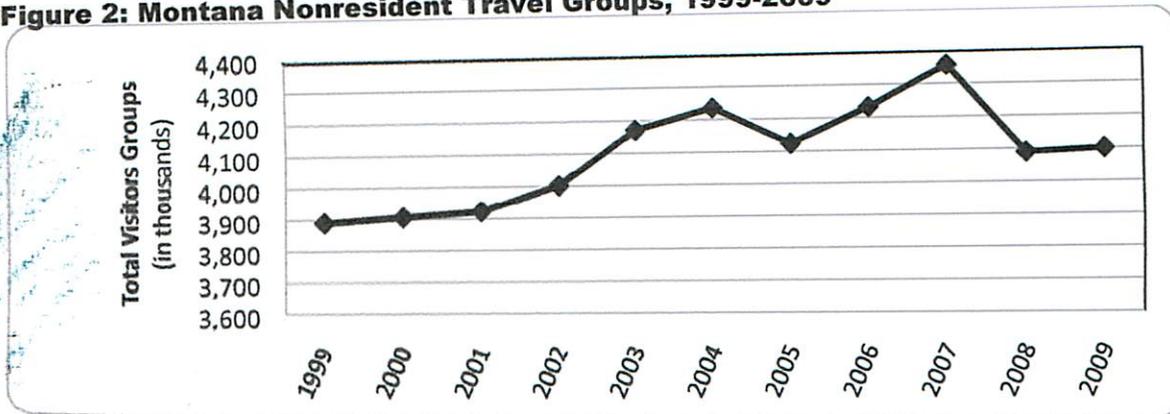
<sup>6</sup> While nonresident travel to Montana includes both pleasure and business travel, excluded from the survey are business vehicles such as semi-trucks, as well as vehicles with state and federal government license plates.

**Figure 1: Montana Nonresident Visitors, 1999-2009**



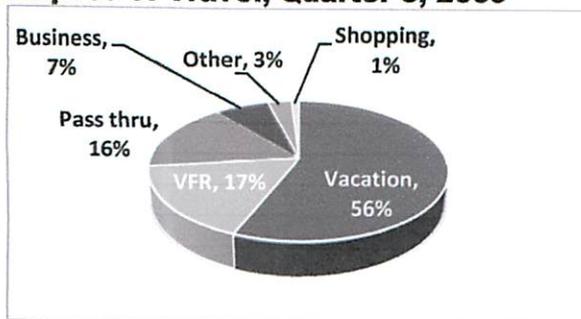
Source: ITRR.

**Figure 2: Montana Nonresident Travel Groups, 1999-2009**



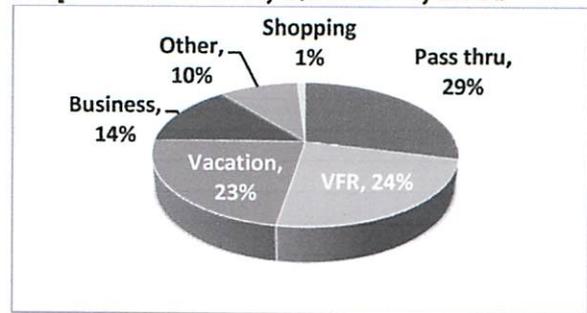
Source: ITRR.

**Figure 3: Montana Nonresident Primary Purpose of Travel, Quarter 3, 2009<sup>1</sup>**



Source: ITRR.

**Figure 4: Montana Nonresident Primary Purpose of Travel, Quarter 4, 2009<sup>1</sup>**



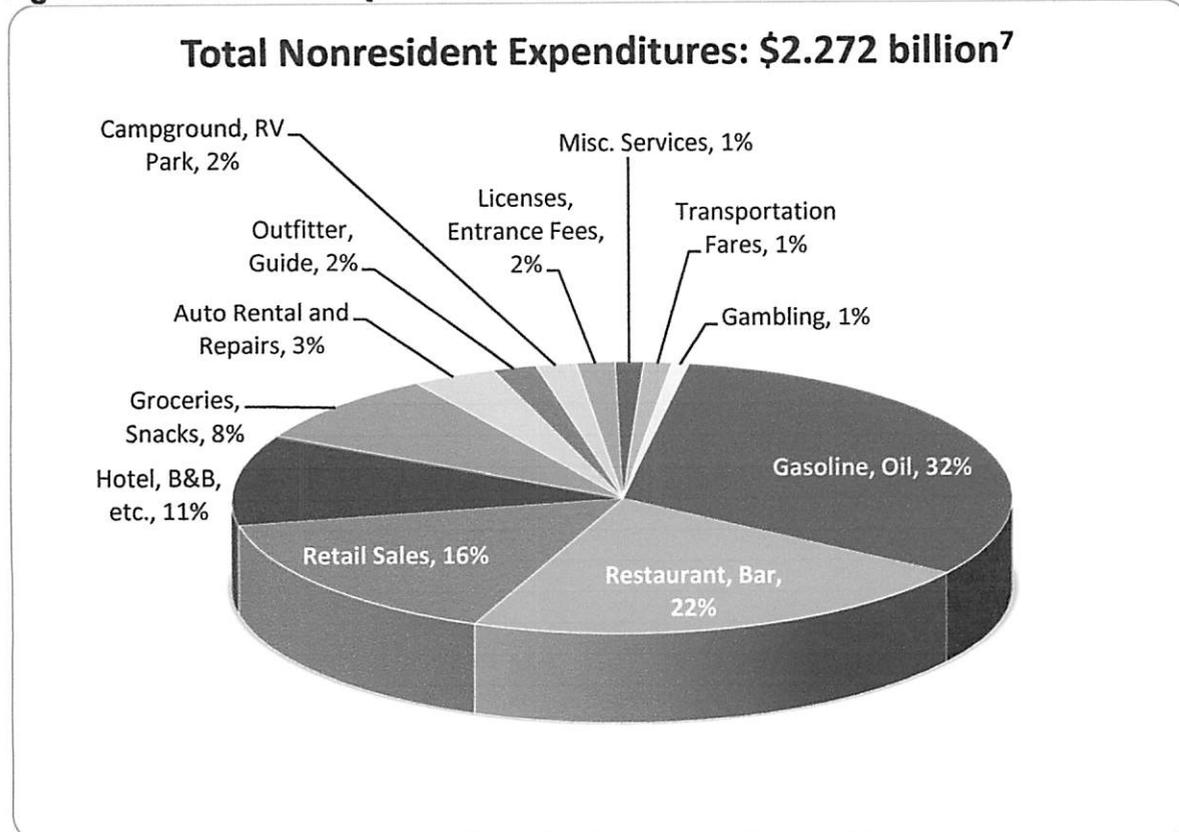
Source: ITRR.

<sup>1</sup>The percentages of nonresidents' primary purpose of travel are based on data collected for Quarters 3 & 4, 2009. A full year of Montana Nonresident Travel Survey data was not collected in 2009.

### ***Nonresident Expenditures in Montana***

- It is estimated that nonresident travelers spent \$2.272 billion<sup>7</sup> on travel-related goods and services in Montana in 2009. The largest spending category was gasoline and oil, accounting for 32 percent of the total, or approximately \$710 million (Figure 5).
- Purchases at restaurants and bars constituted the second-largest spending category, representing 22 percent of the total, or \$498 million.
- Retail sales comprised 16 percent of total expenditures, over \$358 million, while lodging accounted for 11 percent, or over \$240 million.

**Figure 5: Nonresident Expenditures and Distribution, 2009**



Source: ITRR.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>7</sup> 2009 expenditure estimate is based on Q1 & Q2, 2008 expenditure estimates (derived from 2005 spending patterns), adjusted by -18% for changes in the economy, and Q3 & Q4, 2009 estimates.

### ***Nonresident Expenditure Trends***

- Nonresident travel expenditures, including both domestic and international visitors, totaled \$2.272 billion in 2009 (Table 3).
- As of 2008, travel expenditures constituted 7.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product by State.

**Table 3: Nonresident Travel Expenditures and Gross Domestic Product by State, 1999-2009**

Year	Nonresident Travel Expenditures in Montana (millions 2009\$)	% change from previous year	Gross Domestic Product by State <sup>1</sup> (millions 2009\$)	% change from previous year	Nonresident Travel Expenditures as % of GDP by State
1999	\$2,062	1.6%	\$26,276	0.4%	7.8%
2000	\$2,071	0.4	\$26,619	1.3	7.8
2001	\$2,090	0.9	\$27,221	2.3	7.7
2002	\$2,154	3.1	\$28,096	3.2	7.7
2003	\$2,193	1.8	\$29,762	5.9	7.4
2004	\$2,232	1.8	\$31,178	4.8	7.2
2005	\$3,037	N/A <sup>2</sup>	\$32,723	5.0	9.3
2006	\$3,112	2.5	\$33,834	3.4	9.2
2007	\$3,203	2.9	\$35,455	4.8	9.0
2008	\$2,718	-15.2	\$25,763	0.9	7.6
2009	\$2,272	-16.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

Sources: ITRR; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>1</sup> "GDP by State" is simply defined by the BEA as "the value added in production by the labor and property located in a state." GDP is a similar concept but at the national level (and includes military expenses abroad). For more detail, see Beemiller et al. 1999.

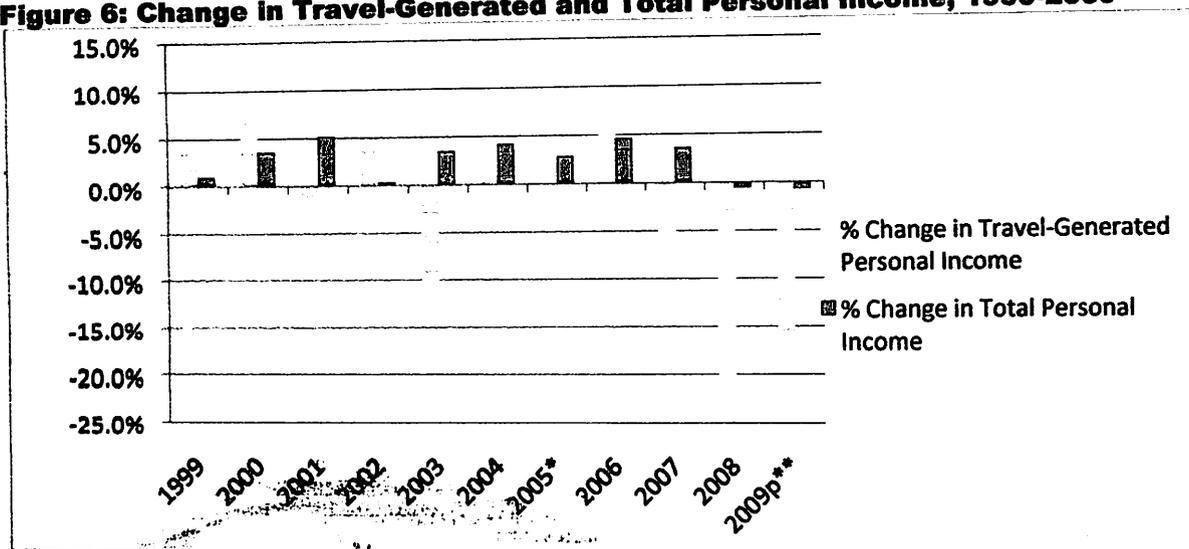
<sup>2</sup> Due to new data in the Institute's Nonresident Visitation Estimation Model and Nonresident Expenditure Estimation Model, the 2005 figure should not be compared to previous years.

## TRAVEL-GENERATED INCOME

Personal income generated from the expenditures of nonresident visitors to Montana is comprised of two categories: employee compensation, which is wages and salary income paid to employees of businesses within the travel industry; and proprietors' income, which is the income of self-employed workers in businesses serving travelers.

- In 2009, total personal income paid by travel-related firms in Montana attributable to nonresident visitor spending totaled over \$660 million (Table 4).
- On average, every dollar spent by nonresident travelers in Montana in 2009 generated 29.8 cents in wage and salary income for Montana residents. The national equivalent is 26.4 cents.<sup>8</sup>
- Personal income generated by nonresident spending in Montana constituted 2.0 percent of Montana residents' total personal income in 2009, compared to 1.6 percent at the national level.<sup>9</sup>
- Figure 6 shows that both total personal income and travel generated income decreased in 2008 and 2009, although the decrease was much more pronounced in travel generated personal income.

**Figure 6: Change in Travel-Generated and Total Personal Income, 1999-2009**



Sources: ITRR; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (SA04).

\*Travel-generated income in 2005 cannot be compared with the previous year due to changes in model data.

\*\*2009 Total personal income preliminary; Travel-generated personal income is based on newly collected nonresident data and new IMPLAN model.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Travel Association, 2010; 2009 total travel expenditures in the U.S. and travel-generated payroll.

<sup>9</sup> Based on Bureau of Economic Analysis (SA04) and U.S. Travel Association estimates.

**Table 4: Travel-Generated and Total Montana Personal Income, 1999-2009**

Year	Travel-Generated Personal Income (millions 2009\$)	% change from previous year	Total Personal Income (millions 2009\$)	% change from previous year	Travel-Generated Income as % of Total Personal Income
1999	\$862	3.7%	\$25,206	1.1%	3.4%
2000	\$944	9.5	\$25,479	3.7	3.6
2001	\$931	-1.3	\$26,413	5.2	3.4
2002	\$976	4.8	\$27,779	0.3	3.5
2003	\$861	-11.1	\$27,870	3.6	3.0
2004	\$868	0.8	\$28,860	4.3	2.9
2005	\$1,102 <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	\$30,091	2.9	3.6
2006	\$1,159	5.2	\$30,954	4.7	3.6
2007	\$1,092	-5.8	\$32,400	3.7	3.2
2008	\$821	-24.8	\$33,602	-0.6	2.5
2009	\$677 <sup>2</sup>	-17.5 <sup>2</sup>	\$33,396	-0.7	2.0

Sources: ITRR; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>1</sup>Due to new IMPLAN model data and structural matrices, as well as new data in the Institute's Nonresident Expenditure Estimation Model, the 2005 figure should not be compared to previous years.

<sup>2</sup>The 2009 figure is based on updated IMPLAN model data and new IMPLAN software. Changes in model data are reflective of changes in Montana's economy, as indicated by economic data recorded by multiple federal agencies.

**Glenda Wiles**

Not read Oct 1  
emailed to each BCC

**From:** Roger DeHaan [rogerandnancy@q.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Comments on sign ordinance from Roger De Haan

Glenda: would you please give this to the Commissioners and have it entered in the record of proceedings on the proposed sign ordinance revisions. Thanks.

Commissioners:

I have followed with interest your deliberations on the sign ordinance revision. Please put me on record as being opposed to increasing the allowable size of billboards in Ravalli County.

The current size of 32 square feet (basically a 4 ft. by 8 ft. piece of plywood) are more than adequate to give essential information to travellers or people looking for a business. There are many negative effects of the large mega billboards you are considering, and very few positive effects.

The biggest concern is the "flavor" or business climate you are trying to project for Ravalli County. I believe that our County has a great chance for a future as a destination type area, not only for tourists, hunters, fisherpeople, skiers etc. but also for various conventions, sporting events, rodeo - basically any event that brings people of a common interest to a single place. And of course all these travellers bring business to our county.

But people, and the conventions and events they sponsor, prefer going to places that are attractive, easy to get around, easy to access essential services, and generally pleasant to be in.

A string of large mega billboards down our highways and byways will create exactly the opposite effect we desire.

To me a big billboard says "this place is for sale" and "the highest bidder can do what he wants". Plus they are highly distracting (when was the last time you drove Interstate 15 in Salt Lake City?) To me these are very negative effects.

Please say no thanks to special interests that want to get mega billboards into Ravalli County.

Thanks.

Roger W. De Haan  
961-3953

**Glenda Wiles**

not read Oct 1  
but emailed to each  
Commiss.

**From:** Wapiti Waters, Fly Fishing Montana [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Weighing in on the sign ordinance discussion

Increasing the allowable off-premise sign size by 2000% on the highway and by 1000% on all secondary roads is unacceptable to me.

At the last meeting you, the commissioners, indicated you wanted to hear from the people. I am voicing my opinion. 32 sf is absolutely plenty! 672 sf on the highway and 336 sf on all other roads is outrageous, horrible, wrong and out of place in our beautiful valley. The views here are priceless. We are smart people, there are other ways to be heard and seen besides huge atrocious, ugly signs. That is not the message I want to send to visitors and I do not want to see big, poorly done signs every day as I drive to business', friends and recreation in my home valley. Please do NOT increase the allowable size of signs at all.

Best Regards,

*Jack*

Jack C. Mauer, Wapiti Waters Fly Fishing Western Montana  
Montana Outfitter #867  
516 Chickadee Lane  
Victor, Montana 59875  
email: [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com](mailto:wapiti@wapiti-waters.com)  
MT Voice: 406-642-6548  
Reservations: 800-254-5311  
Website: [www.wapiti-waters.com](http://www.wapiti-waters.com) Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

Visit our original BLOG at <http://wapiti-waters.blogspot.com/>

not read oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Wapiti Waters, Fly Fishing Montana [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Weighing in on the sign ordinance discussion

Increasing the allowable off-premise sign size by 2000% on the highway and by 1000% on all secondary roads is unacceptable to me.

At the last meeting you, the commissioners, indicated you wanted to hear from the people. I am voicing my opinion. 32 sf is absolutely plenty! 672 sf on the highway and 336 sf on all other roads is outrageous, horrible, wrong and out of place in our beautiful valley. The views here are priceless. We are smart people, there are other ways to be heard and seen besides huge atrocious, ugly signs. That is not the message I want to send to visitors and I do not want to see big, poorly done signs every day as I drive to business', friends and recreation in my home valley. Please do NOT increase the allowable size of signs at all.

Best Regards,

*Jack*

Jack C. Mauer, Wapiti Waters Fly Fishing Western Montana  
Montana Outfitter #867  
516 Chickadee Lane  
Victor, Montana 59875  
email: [wapiti@wapiti-waters.com](mailto:wapiti@wapiti-waters.com)  
MT Voice: 406-642-6548  
Reservations: 800-254-5311  
Website: [www.wapiti-waters.com](http://www.wapiti-waters.com) Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

Visit our original BLOG at <http://wapiti-waters.blogspot.com/>

**Glenda Wiles**

---

Not read on Oct 1  
But emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Suzanna McDougal [suzanna@wildblue.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign ordinance

To the Five Commissioners:

I'm very concerned hearing about the sign ordinance. I had the misfortune to be born in an area where bill boards lined the highways. When I arrived in Montana 40 years ago, the small number of highway signs were not enough to distract. I watch our Hamilton 2 lane tree lined road become 4 plus lanes and all the trees cut down. Then Highway 93 created the straight shot for Hamilton to become a bedroom community for Missoula. Most tourists come here for the beauty of the mountains and to get away from the area where they have the misfortune to live and work among huge signs.

Many of our Ravalli County citizens worked long hours to come to an agreement that is presently our sign ordinance. Please keep it as it is.

Thank you,  
Suzanna McDougal  
381-5032  
Hamilton

Glenda Wiles

not read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Marina Weatherly [cw@bridgemail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 1:42 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** 672 Sign ordinance: Read for Oct. 1 mtg!!!

I have just now received word that the County Commissioners are planning to change the County sign ordinance tomorrow, Oct 1 at 10:00. Please read my input below at your meeting on Monday, and place it on public record. Thank you.

Marina Weatherly, former Planning Board member and current chairman of Stevensville Main Street Design Committee.

**Public Input on changing Ravalli County Sign Regulations**

I strongly oppose increasing the size of billboards in Ravalli County. In the late 1990's, the Planning Board and commissioners created a sign ordinance for Ravalli County. This was done in response to the strong outcry of huge billboards that had sprung up on Hwy 93 corridor. We had overwhelming public input when we created the ordinance and acted upon it. The meetings were well advertised and we met after regular work hours so the public could attend. The main opposition to the large billboards had to do with the obstruction of the view-shed from the highway. The majority of residents of Ravalli County did not want our highway corridor to become like so many other places which have been visually destroyed by commercialism of this fashion. It was agreed that advertising was necessary for our economy, but that we could read smaller billboards perfectly fine, and have done so for the past 12 years. Why the change now? Who are we changing them for? Is it the majority of the public, or the out of state sign companies and a few large businesses?

If the proposed sign ordinance is adopted, this will adversely affect our local economy. Tourists will no longer be attracted to the natural beauty of the Bitterroot Valley and will hesitate to make this a destination. It will become like anywhere USA. We need to protect and respect the unique natural beauty, not destroy it. This would be short sighted and have long term negative impact on our local economy and impact the loss of esthetic quality local residents value, when they are bombarded by mega billboards as they commute on our highways. Please do not give in to gutting the existing sizes. They are fine as is. We can see them, we can read them and we can enjoy the view of the Montana country side and Bitterroot Mountains as we drive.

In addition, I would like to state that due to limited visible public notice about the proposed sign changes, and holding the meeting in the middle of the morning when very few of us working folks can attend, the general public will not have a chance to give due public input. I request that we allow more time for public input, let folks know in a transparent way that this is being discussed and hold future meetings about this subject when more of us can attend. Thank you, Marina Weatherly

**Glenda Wiles**

---

*NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC*

**From:** pjthomas101@peoplepc.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** signage

personally, I would like to see no signs at all outside the city limits in ravalli county, but for god's sake don't make them any bigger.

sincerely,  
patti jo thomas

Not read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Darlene L. Grove [skippy777@centurylink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Ordinance!

To Ravalli County Commissioners,

From: Darlene L Grove

I write to you not only for myself, but for my extended family. We are opposed to the proposed changes in the sign ordinance.

We supported the present ordinance in 2000, as we had just finished working with the MDOT on the widening of Highway 93. As a member of the Stevensville Focus Group, we were hearing from many residents of the county about the unsightliness of a proliferation of large billboards that were encroaching on the outstanding views we have from the Highway when coming up the valley. At that time, it was a natural follow-up to keep this practice from happening and surely getting worse. Although we still have some of these obnoxious signs on private property, our highway is still a very scenic drive.

We just returned from a trip to eastern Montana and was saddened by the intensity of huge signage along some of our highways.

I do not believe such pollution helps our business community, nor does it please out of state visitors. The only ones who might profit from this practice are corporations, big business and land owners.

I certainly hope, in your good judgement you will vote to leave the sign ordinance as is and better yet, to decrease the size of the signs.

Thank you.

Darlene L. Grove  
PO Box 77  
Stevensville, MT

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to each

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** bandbl\_6@q.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 6:51 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** County Sign Ordinance

BCC

To our county commissioners.

I would like to express my opposition to ANY changes to our County Sign Ordinance. As a former business person, it is my opinion the value of these are negligible, and the negative impact on our landscape is undeniable.

Please do not vote to relax our current regulations. They are serving the majority of us well.

Thank you for your consideration. Ben Longbottom, Stevensville.

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Mark Van Loon [mark.inthewoods@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 7:00 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** billboard size proposals -

I'd like to make an official comment for the record. I am using email because I'm unable to personally attend the meeting on Mon. Oct. 1, 2012.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed change to billboard sizes: 672 sf on Hwy 93 and 336 sf on ALL other roads. The idea is offensive and ludicrous. The 672 sf size is LARGER THAN MY HOUSE!!!

The good and thoughtful people of this county put in place the current size restrictions to maintain the beauty and character of our county. Tourists come here for the natural beauty and spectacular views, not HUGE billboards. If you want to really crash our local economy, this is the surest and fastest way to do it.

Please stop this insanity.

Sincerely,

Mark van Loon  
Hamilton

--

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." - Albert Einstein

Theodore Roosevelt embraced progressivism as "the highest and wisest form of conservatism."

"There is no them, there is only us" - Luis Alberto Urrea

**Glenda Wiles**

---

not read at 1  
but emailed to  
each BCC

**From:** Karla Schiever [kjschiever@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** County Sign Ordinance

For the record: John & Karla Schiever are against increasing the size limitations for signs--the proposed sign size limitations are far too large. We feel it will destroy the beauty we love here in the valley.

Karla & John Schiever

704 Honey House Lane

Corvallis, MT 59828

NOT read Oct 1  
but emailed  
to each BCC

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Jennifer Ogden [jfrogden@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Fwd: Billboards

Sent from my iPod

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ravalli County Commissioners" <[commissioners@rc.mt.gov](mailto:commissioners@rc.mt.gov)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2011 8:54:57 AM MST  
**To:** "Jennifer Ogden" <[jfrogden@gmail.com](mailto:jfrogden@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** "Terry Nelson" <[tnelson@rc.mt.gov](mailto:tnelson@rc.mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Billboards

Thanks for your email, it will be placed in general and commissioners correspondence as well as forwarded to the planning department as they are preparing some research for the commissioners.

Glenda M. Wiles, Administrative Assistant  
Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
215 S. 4th St., Suite A  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
406-375-6500  
406-375-6507 Fax

"May your neighbors respect you; Trouble neglect you; The angels protect you; and Heaven accept you!"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jennifer Ogden [<mailto:jfrogden@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2011 7:04 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Billboards

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

I wish to address the issue of changing our current sign ordinance by reverting to the less restrictive state regulations. Outdoor advertising is an impactful nuisance. Unlike more ephemeral print, radio or television advertising that we can choose to unsubscribe or turn off, we're stuck with some business owner's idea of customer engagement. I have never seen a billboard I'd rather stare at than the Bitterroot Mountains. Please don't lower our quality of life by cluttering up our commons with trashy signage. I hope you will consider our shared viewshed.

-Jennifer Ogden, Hamilton

Sent from my iPod

Ravalli County Commissioners

October 1, 2012

NOT read  
Oct 1 Out  
Emailed to  
each BCC

It is my understanding that you are commencing the process of taking public comment on changing Ravalli County's current sign ordinance. In fact, there is a proposal to permit much larger signs on Highway 93 and other County roads. The increase in sign size on Highway 93 is proposed at a 2000% increase from current allowable size.

It had apparently not occurred to you, collectively or individually, that the primary, most reliable and consistent resource in Ravalli County is its natural beauty, its open spaces, its vistas, its openness, its access to world class fishing and hunting. These are the resources that bring people to the Bitterroot to visit and to stay. These people, numbering in the thousands, buy homes, buy groceries, buy hardware. We in Ravalli County don't have oil or natural gas or coal. Our timber resources are largely pruned and not a major economic contributor. There is some farming and ranching but we would be a sleepy blip in the road were it not for the people who retire here, who own part time homes here, who visit annually to fish and hunt. What makes our local economy work are retirees and visitors. I can count literally hundreds of friends, and myself, who have retired here or own part time homes here because of the characteristics listed above. Why do you think they come?

At one time, the Los Angeles area was known for its natural beauty. Now we have a constant influx of new residents from that and other blighted areas who are attracted by what we have. Your sign proposal is a major step in destroying what we have. Do you remember the 60's song, Big Yellow Taxi? "Hey, Paradise, put up a parking lot." That's what you will do if you destroy the very basis of our Valley's economic vitality.

There is a constant refrain in all this: PROPERTY RIGHTS! Every property owner claims the right to do whatever he or she wants on their property irrespective of the consequences to the rest of us. It is the aggregation of selfish, self-interested and short sighted actions that made Los Angeles what it is today. Is that what you think your role is? To permit the destruction of what we all treasure? The ability to restrain or eliminate signage as a proper police function of the government is well established. Yes, it is constitutional. The signage is a commercial speech, which can be and usually is much more restricted than other forms of free speech. Talk to any competent lawyer. They will all tell that you have the power to regulate, severely, commercial free speech. So, it is truly up to you five Commissioners. You make the decision.

As an aside, if I were an intelligent real estate agent or broker, a real estate developer, a shop owner, a fishing guide or almost any other local profession one can think of, I would oppose any enlarging of road signage. It will eventually kill off your customer base. The assets we can sell over and over are our open spaces, our vistas, our Bitterroot Valley. Please do not kill it off.

Very truly yours,

Richard Morrisey

523 Diamond 3 Road

Corvallis, MT 59828

**Glenda Wiles**

---

not read  
Oct 1 byt.  
emailed to  
each BCL

**From:** Patrick Brower [patrickmbrower@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2012 9:13 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** billboards

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to let you know that I oppose any and all measures to increase the size or amount of billboards in Ravalli County.

I'd much rather be able to enjoy the view of the mountains than pictures of meth addicts and truck ads.

Thank you,  
Patrick M. Brower