

Hello

My name is Dan Donley. I live just south of Danville and have land that the rail trail will pass thru. I was able to attend the first meeting and I think the commissioners did a great job of informing us of our options. I also think that it is a privilege to participate in a project that has such a long-term benefit both financially and aesthetically.

My previous neighbors sold their property a couple years ago and bought a commercial building in Harrison, Idaho on Lake Coeur d'Alene. A bike trail that runs along the lake passes right by. Their building has a restaurant, espresso bar, tavern, and rented spaces to local businesses. Without the benefit of the trail they would not have been able to, within the first three years, recover enough of their investment to make their business viable. I have spent some time in Harrison and the people I met that were using the trail were very friendly. They stopped and shopped at the local businesses, and bought items from local artisans.

Because of this experience, I'm not too concerned about having a non-motorized trail that goes through my property. In fact, I may personally benefit from the public exposure of my home business, which is furniture and totem carving. I could carve a totem and put it where passers-by could see it. It may create a destination.

I am however opposed to motorizing the trail. First; motorcycles, ATV's, and snowmobiles, are made for the woods and we really should not drive them in people's back yards. I think that we are all familiar with the 10-14 year old kids, who are too young and irresponsible to have a driver's license, racing around on motorized equipment, unsupervised, creating a noise, traffic and dust hazard. Second; turning the trail into a motorized shooting gallery during hunting season would be the greatest invasion of privacy that I can imagine, and I'm a hunter.

Incompatibility with hikers, horseback riders, and cyclists sharing the trail with motorized vehicles will not work. The invasion of privacy that we adjacent landowners must share will be many times greater by allowing motorized traffic on the trail system.

If I were personally responsible for this decision, landowner privacy would be the chief issue, as I would not wish a motorized trail on anyone. I feel that a motorized trail would be a shortsighted decision that did not consider the changing face of Ferry County's economy or the privacy of its citizens.

We have the opportunity to connect two nation wide bike trails. One goes thru Grand Forks, B.C., the other through Republic. The 28-mile rail trail is most likely the closest these two trails come to each other for their entire length. We could make our trail a destination. In light of this fact, we will pass up this unique opportunity if we motorize the trail.

Safety becomes a concern with the upcoming advent of ore hauling trucks along one of our most scenic by ways, the Kettle River, and south on Hwy 21 toward Republic. It makes good sense that we secure a non-motorized trail in that corridor, especially for

children. What a great 28-mile training route for cross country running or a safe way of biking to a friend's home. A flat, easy trail would also benefit the elderly, and people in wheelchairs could have a special place to experience nature.

In Ferry County running a business is like balancing on a fine wire, I've had my own for the last eight years. An increase in sales of just 10% can be the difference between make or break. It is heart wrenching to see a small business give it a go only to falter in a couple years. All that sacrifice and effort, that's tough. We see it on main street and elsewhere each year. The increased revenue from the trail could make a difference.

Bicyclists are very concerned with weight. They would rather buy than carry, and it's nice to stay in a hotel after tent living for a few days. This would help our local economy.

I travel all over the state to sell and deliver my furniture, attend shows and meet with customers. I talk to thousands of people, especially in Winthrop, Chelan, and Wenatchee area. People are buying property and values have skyrocketed, however there is only so much land. People are searching far and wide for land. They will not be arriving here on a shoestring. They are well to do and educated, and will be an asset to our community. For these relocated or retired boomers an easy, beautiful bike trail would really be a draw, a destination. Another reason to invest in Ferry County.

As our natural resource economy changes, we will in the future be looking for ways to compensate for loss of revenue. I believe a non-motorized trail will help bridge the gap in a way that leaves intact many of the beautiful things that we all live here to enjoy and will bring prosperity to our area.

I'm looking forward to the next public meeting for the trail.

Thanks,

Dan Donley