

This is an independent study to measure the economic impact of the proposed Bitterroot Resort. This document is not an environmental assessment. Please limit your input to findings in the Economic Impact Analysis and cite the page number and paragraph. Comments may be mailed to MAEDC at 1121 East Broadway, Suite 100, Missoula, MT 59802, or can be emailed to maedc@maedc.org. All input must be kept to one page using font size 10 -12.

Remarks:

Page 30...paragraph addressing water usage. Weather patterns in western Montana have changed. There is less snow, less rain, less water. The Resort may have water rights but, in light of current availability of water, how can there not be a potentially dramatic impact in existing aquifers resulting from snowmaking and development? Planners should take a hard look at what is happening in the southeastern US, especially in the Atlanta, GA megalopolis...they are just about out of water and overdevelopment has been a major contributor to that crisis. The discussion regarding future stream flows, aquifers, and improved fisheries did not inspire much confidence on my part.

Page 32...Gradual Reshaping of the Area. I have lived all over the country, including almost 30 years in the Washington, DC area. I have watched development absorb open space at alarming rates with the all too familiar negative consequences. They say that nature abhors a vacuum and I would propose that the area surrounding the Resort will become a target for expanded development by businesses that want to take advantage of the population spurt. In other words, based on my observations, overdevelopment won't stop at the borders of the Resort.

My experience living in the Washington area also leads me to warn of a large influx of illegal aliens into the Missoula area should development of the Resort go forward. This is an issue that, unfortunately, causes many politicians, planners, and employers to stick their heads in the sand. However, virtually uncontrolled illegal immigration is a fact of life in this country and developments such as the Resort are magnets for aliens. The Analysis, unsurprisingly, did not address that issue. It will become a problem.

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