



"...to protect the natural resources that make the North Fork an unparalleled environment for wildlife and people."

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North Fork Planning To Reach County Commissioners

North Forkers will finally have a chance to get zoning passed by the County Commissioners. Despite the negative recommendation of the Flathead County Planning Board, commissioners can exercise their judgment based on the specifics of the proposed plan and pass this proposal on its own merit. The political climate is good for passage because of the results of the June primary elections. Expressions of landowner support have more effect now than ever before. Land owners should write letters and attend the hearing. Call the County Planning Office at (406) 758-5965 for the time and place of the hearing, which is expected to be in mid-July.

Zoning on the North Fork was once again delayed on May 8th. The Flathead County Planning Board tabled the proposed zoning amendments rather than forward them with a recommendation to adopt or not adopt. Without a recommendation from the Planning Board, the County Commissioners apparently cannot act. The North Fork zoning amendment was then the topic of a special Planning Board meeting on June 19th at which testimony could not be given.

Instead of tabling the proposed zoning as expected and possibly usurping the prerogative of the County Commissioners for the third time, the Planning Board voted 5 to 4 to forward a negative recommendation to the Flathead County Commissioners. This finally allows North Forkers to have their "day in court."

With the defeat of Commissioner Dale Williams in June's Republican primary by Gary Hall, prospects for planning are brighter. Hall is more supportive of planning than Williams and Democratic candidate Karen Reeves is a strong zoning advocate. About half the Planning Board will be chosen after the new year.

Despite well-organized efforts by the opposition, spearheaded by an out-of-state developer, letters ran 2 to 1 in favor of the proposed zoning amendments. Public input has been profuse. The proposed zoning regulations are less restrictive than those presented in August and less restrictive than zoning regulations in much of Flathead County. Note that accessory buildings are allowed in the proposed regulations, despite misinformation to the contrary.

The hearings with the County Commissioners are expected to be held in mid-July. Landowners should send letters of support to Howard Gipe, Chairman, Flathead County Commissioners, 800 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901. The proposed regulations are on the web at the NFPA web site (www.gravel.org).

For questions about the proposed zoning amendments, contact the Flathead County Planning Office and talk to Forrest Sanderson at 406-758-5965.

The Flathead County Planning Board has delayed the zoning efforts for nearly a year. Because of letters to the editor -- especially one by Pat Cole, Secretary of the North Fork Land Use Planning Committee -- newspaper articles and a critical editorial, the Flathead County Planning Board has acquired a negative image among Flathead Valley residents. The Planning Board seems to be making predetermined decisions rather than basing them on testimony received at hearings and is largely ignoring the advice of the County Planning staff. Under these circumstances, the recommendation of the County Planning Board should not be binding on the County Commissioners.

Now is the time for landowners to reassert control over the situation by writing to the County Commissioners and letting their voice be heard.

A chance for lasting North Fork preservation

Waterton Park to Double in Size? *Only if the Public Demands It*

Once in a great while, opportunity knocks on conservation's door. Today, you have the rare opportunity to dramatically influence the future of Glacier National Park (and the North Fork) in a very big way. How big? Think one hundred thousand (100,000) acres big!

Canadians have proposed expanding Waterton Lakes National Park (Glacier's sister park) westward into British Columbia and the headwaters of the North Fork Flathead River Valley. This proposed expansion would more than double the size of Waterton. It would bring long-needed protection to international populations of bull and cutthroat trout, deer, elk, moose, grizzly and black bears, wolves, and other forest carnivores, and their habitat.

Montanans and the U.S. have much to gain from this Canadian initiative. Canadians are asking that the world (and Montana in particular) express support for the park expansion. It is important that

you seize this opportunity and write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Prime Minister of Canada.

To contact Canadian Decision Makers:

Writing Canadian decision-makers is easy. On the Internet, go to www.peaceparkplus.net. This interactive web site allows you to customize your comments, which are then faxed automatically. It takes only ten minutes. If you wish to write directly, or do not have a computer, please write a letter (postage to Canada is 60 cents):

Honorable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
P.O. box 9041, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1, Canada
Fax: (250) 387-0087

The right Honorable Jean Cretien
Office of the Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2 Canada
Fax: (613) 941-6900

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Worthwhile Web Sites

North Fork Preservation Association

<http://www.gravel.org>

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/states/montana>

North Fork conservation easements and more.

Glacier Institute

<http://www.glacierinstitute.org>

Classes for children and adults

Montana Wilderness Association

<http://www.wildmontana.org>

Glacier National Park

<http://www.nps.gov/glac>

Maps, trail and road status, research, history, lots more

Flathead National Forest

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead>

The Transboundary Network

<http://www.transboundaryflathead.org>

Working for North Fork transboundary preservation

SUMMER SCHEDULE- 2002

NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Questions about the NFPA and its activities may be directed to nfpa@gravel.org

A copy of this schedule is posted on our web site at www.gravel.org.

June 19, Wednesday, 7pm. **Special meeting of county planning board to discuss North Fork proposal.** Courthouse East, Kalispell. Call the Planning Office to confirm time.

June 29, Saturday, 8pm. **Bear Safety**, a program by Grizzly Bear Specialist Tim Manley, which will include the film *Safety in Bear Country*, showing simulated bear encounters and how to respond to them. Sponsored by NFPA and Bear News. Snacks provided. Sondreson Hall.

July 1. Monday, 8am Merc or 8:30 Whale Cr. Rd. **Huntsberger Lake Hike.** 8 miles. Moderate.

July 12, Friday, 5pm-potluck dinner hosted by the Glacier Institute. 6:30-**Inter Local Agreement meeting.** Hear updates by local agencies and groups. Sondreson Hall.

July 13 and 14, Saturday and Sunday. Tuchuck Campground. **Backcountry Horsemen Volunteer Project.** Work Saturday on Review Mt. and Tuchuck Ridge Trails. Potluck Saturday evening. Additional Info, call Jim Bailey, at 755-5464. Sunday's activities are flexible.

July 15, Monday, 8am Merc or 8:30 Whale Cr. Rd. **Thompson Seton Hike.** 12 miles. Strenuous.

July 26, Friday. **Walk with Nature Conservancy Naturalist Ralph Waldt.** Call Marilyn Wood, 837-0909, for location and time.

July 26, Friday, 5:30 pm- **North Fork Preservation Association potluck, annual meeting and elections.** Bring a side dish. 7:30- Karen Holzer of the USGS will be giving a program on **Glacial Change in Glacier National Park.** Karen will be talking about recent glacial measurement studies, historical work of George Bird Grinnell and others, and

showing fascinating repeat photos. Sondreson Hall. *Note change of date from winter newsletter.*

July 27, Saturday, 8am, Tuchuck campground. **Review Mt. Hike.** 11 miles. Strenuous. Call Dave Hadden, 837-0783, for reservations. Sponsored by MWA.

July 29, Monday, 8am Merc or 8:30 Red Meadow Rd. **Nasukoin Mt. Hike.** 14 Miles. Strenuous.

August 2, Friday, 7:30 pm (tentative) Sondreson Hall. Alan Brown of the Montana Snowmobile Association and John Gatchell of the Montana wilderness association will speak on the USFS **Winter Recreation Agreement (Snowmobile Agreement).** All welcome. Check your guns at the door. Call John (888-5084) or Rachel (892-2446) to confirm.

August 3, Saturday, 8pm **North Fork Improvement Association meeting.** 9:15 pm **Annual NFIA elections.** Bring a snack. Sondreson Hall.

August 10 and 11, Saturday and Sunday. **Thoma Trail Maintenance.** Trail #18 and #15. Overnight at Historic Thoma Lookout. Need sleeping bag, pad water, gloves and food. USFS provides food for evening meal. Bring a tent if you don't want to sleep with the mice. Frank Vitale and his mules will pack your gear. You are welcome to join us Saturday if you can't spare both days. Please call John Frederick (888-5084) or Frank Vitale (892-2909 evenings) so we can plan for food and supplies.

August 22, Thursday. **Walk with Nature Conservancy Naturalist Ralph Waldt.** Call Marilyn Wood, 837-0909, for location and time.

August 26, Monday. 7:30 Merc, 8:00 Trail Cr. Rd. **Review Mt. Hike.** 12 miles. Strenuous.