

RESOLUTION 2019 - 107

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LINCOLN VALLEY
COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, since 2013, Lewis and Clark County community members have engaged in a dialogue about how to improve the quality of life in the Lincoln Valley; and,

WHEREAS, nearly all participants agreed that the status quo is not working, and many community members have expressed strong interest in seeing recreation, conservation, timber, mining and other interests working together to improve national forest management in the Lincoln Valley; and,

WHEREAS, community members formed a diverse working group that includes timber, motorized and non-motorized recreation, hunters and anglers, outfitters, conservation groups, and others to develop recommendations to improve forest management and the quality of life in the Lincoln Valley; and,

WHEREAS, after years of work, this group developed a collaboratively built proposal that balances recreation, forest restoration, conservation, and economic development and reflects the input of numerous stakeholders in and around the Lincoln Valley; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal will improve forest conditions and habitat, better protect Lincoln from wildfire, enhance opportunities for snowmobiling and ATV riding, create jobs in forest restoration, expand mountain biking opportunities, better manage recreation year-round, preserve important big game habitat, protect opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, and improve the local economy; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal is supported by a diverse coalition, including sportsmen, timber interests, ranchers, snowmobilers, summer motorized recreation groups, landowners, mountain bikers, conservation groups, outfitters and guides, and others; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal was presented at a public meeting in Lincoln, and has received significant support from local businesses, landowners, ranchers, the Chamber of Commerce, and others; and,

WHEREAS, this collaborative proposal represents a true made-in-Montana solution to public land management, and is the best opportunity for Lewis and Clark County residents and others to shape their own future by working together to improve forest conditions, grow the economy, protect habitat, and expand recreational access; and,

WHEREAS, the Lincoln Valley public lands proposal will require an Act of Congress to implement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners,



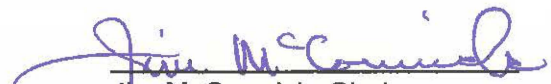
1. That the Board of County Commissioners supports the Lincoln Valley collaborative public lands management proposal.

2. That the Board of County Commissioners urges the Montana Congressional delegation to support the Lincoln Valley collaborative public lands management proposal and to introduce and advance it in Congress.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Montana Congressional delegation.

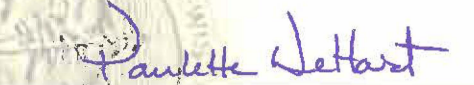
DATED this 5th day of December, 2019.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Jim McCormick, Chair



ATTEST


Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board