



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lolo Area Regional Plan Stakeholder Assessment Report Available – Missoula County to hold Drop-In Office Hours in Lolo

Missoula County recently embarked on a land use plan update for the Lolo Planning area, which would also amend the Missoula County Growth Policy. This effort was initiated in response to concerns raised that the County has not done enough to implement the 2002 Lolo Regional Plan. Additionally, a number of changing conditions have transpired over recent years, including but not limited to: continued residential growth and development; the potential for a four season destination resort; changing land ownership and management of Legacy and non-Legacy Plum Creek lands; concerns raised in the area regarding gravel resource development and related neighborhood livability.

In preparation for this project, at the end of March we met with a few landowners and residents from the area to get a sense of what people might think about the answers to the following questions:

- Is the 2002 Lolo Regional Plan still valid?
- Is a limited plan update needed or warranted? For example, are the goals and objectives valid? What about the land use designations?
- Is there support in the Lolo planning area for zoning to implement the plan, or an updated plan?

The **Stakeholders Assessment Report** summarizing recent meetings, as well as general information about the Lolo Planning Project, is available at <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/rural/LoloAreaRegionalPlan.htm>. (Information is also available at the Rural Initiatives office at 317 Woody in Missoula.)

Missoula County will be holding office hours at the Lolo Community Center on June 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about this project. Rural Initiatives staff will be on hand to visit with Lolo area residents and we anticipate that the one County Commissioner may be in attendance at varying times during these office hours. No formal presentations will be made and this is not a public hearing to receive comment on the Report.

What we hear will help the Commissioners determine the future of this project.