

KGEZ-Kalispell, MT

Flathead Valley Issues- January 2019

1. **Travel into NW Montana.** Glacier Park International Airport continues to see massive increases in passenger traffic. Additional Parking and Terminal Space is being considered.
2. **Urban Renewal in Downtown Kalispell.** Plans include moving businesses to a new Glacier Rail Park, made possible by a TIGER Grant.
3. **Drug Use/Abuse.** Law Enforcement Agencies continue to point to vandalism and theft related to drug abuse.
4. **Traffic Congestion.** The new US Hwy 93 Bypass is already clogging-up with traffic. Plans are being made for additional freeway interchanges. Funding is an issue.
5. **Forest Management.** Many logging projects are held-up in the Courts, which is creating a shortage of logs to keep the mills running.
6. **Unemployment.** NW Montana is experiencing double-digit Unemployment statistics.
7. **Access to Forests/Public Lands.** Much of the state of Montana and, specifically the KGEZ Coverage Area is Federally controlled land. Public access to these areas continues to be a hot-button issue.
8. **The Local Economy.** Many who traditionally work in the lumber mills are without work because of the shortage of logs to mill.
9. **Tax Reform.** Many State and Local taxes are considered by many as impediments to attracting new business and clean industry to the Flathead Valley.
10. **Funding For Local Charities.** Cuts in Federal Funds and Programs have forced local Charities to find other ways to continue to serve the people of the Flathead Valley.
11. **Land Use Issues.** The Montana Artesian Water Bottling Company has neighbors fuming. Montana DEQ has approved the beginning of operations

KGEZ 20-20 News reaches out to provide coverage of local events with an eye on providing information and discussion of all these issues. The KGEZ Good Morning Show features interviews with local and regional officials each morning between 6:00 and 10:00. A minimum of 5-local interviews are scheduled each morning.