

I apologize for being late returning this.

For the most part we have a fair relationship with the federal agencies. I think most of the people we deal with want to do the right thing, but they are terrified of those people and groups who make their living suing the federal government and leeching off of people they have hoodwinked into believing their latest line of B.S.

Most of the questions in this survey are no-brainers that almost everyone will answer the same. Question #20, in my opinion is the crux of all land-use issues. These special interest groups have so much money and so much power, that they can seriously damage almost anyone in our government. They start out by dictating to our federal agencies (and state agencies) what their policies need to be. Their influence includes the agency folks, elected folks, and judges.

I don't think anything is going to change until we start electing people to office that have the courage and backbone to stand up to some of these organizations. Do we have enough elected official in the State of Montana willing to stand together to demand that the Federal Government turn Federal land over to the state so it can actually be managed for all people instead of not being managed at all because they are afraid someone will sue them?

Our federal government is so dysfunctional it cannot operate effectively. It is essential we change that.

Leonard Wortman, Chair
Jefferson County Commissioner



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704
(406) 444-3742

GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE
TIM BAKER

HOUSE MEMBERS
BILL MCCHESENEY--Vice
JERRY BENNETT
VIRGINIA COURT
ED LIESER
JEFFREY WELBORN
KERRY WHITE

SENATE MEMBERS
JOHN BRENDEN--Chair
JENNIFER FIELDER
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT
JIM KEANE
RICK RIPLEY
GENE VUCKOVICH

PUBLIC MEMBERS
SCOTT ASPENLIEDER
DEXTER BUSBY
MARY FITZPATRICK
ROY MORRIS

COUNCIL STAFF
JASON MOHR, Research Analyst
SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Research Analyst
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
HELEN THIGPEN, Staff Attorney
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary
JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst

SJ-15 SURVEY OF MONTANA COUNTY COMMISSIONS

This official state survey is required by the passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 15 by the 2013 Legislature for a study evaluating the management of certain federal lands in Montana, assessing risks, and identifying solutions. Your county was selected for this survey because 15% or more of the land in your county is managed by a federal agency.

Surveys returned by Aug. 23 will be distributed to the EQC for the September meeting. If it is not possible to meet that deadline, please return the survey by Nov. 1. Attach any supplemental explanations, comments, suggestions, or other information your board finds pertinent.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

1. Do current wildfire conditions on federal lands within your county pose a significant threat to:

Public Health and Safety Public Property Private Property

2. Do you believe fire hazard on federally managed lands should be reduced to protect public health and safety within your county?

Yes No Unsure

3. Regarding the water supply your citizens use, does current federal land management of watersheds:

Optimize water yield Diminish water yield Have no impact

4. How important is it for people of your county to have motorized access to public lands for sustenance activities such as gathering wood, picking berries, harvesting wild game, etc.?

Very Important Not Important Unsure

5. Is there an adequate supply of motorized roads on federal lands in your county to accommodate emergency ingress/egress, facility maintenance, public access, and resource management?

Yes No Unsure

6. Regarding multiple-use recreational access routes on federal lands, does your county desire:

Increased Multi-Use Access Reduced Multi-Use Access Keep

Access As Is

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

7. Do you believe current fuel loads on any of the federal lands within your county could result in severe, uncontrollable, or catastrophic wildfires? (If so, provide geographic location in attachment)

Yes No Unsure

8. Is a high intensity wildfire on federal lands likely to cause a loss of important fish & wildlife habitat or harm Threatened or Endangered Species in your county (e.g. grizzly bears, lynx, sage grouse, black-footed ferret, bull trout)?

Yes No Unsure

9. Are environmental threats such as noxious weeds and bark beetle adequately controlled on federal lands within your county?

Yes No Unsure

10. Does the air quality in your county fall below acceptable health standards due to smoke originating from fires on federally managed lands?

Yes No Unsure

ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

11. Is the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT revenues) your county derives from federally managed lands equivalent to the amount that actual land taxation of these lands would bring?

Yes No Please estimate PILT as a percentage of county budget.

12. Is the amount your county derives from the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds equivalent to the amount that your county could derive from responsible harvest or extraction of natural resources?

Yes No Please estimate SRS as a percentage of county budget.

13. Is the economic productivity and number of related private sector jobs commensurate with the resource production capacity of the federally managed lands within your county?

Yes No Unsure

14. Are federal policies for Threatened or Endangered Species adversely impacting private land owners, businesses, industries, or citizens within your county?

Yes No Unsure

15. Has federal land management resulted in adverse impacts to your county's economy?

Yes No Unsure

16. Do you believe changes in federal land management are necessary to increase your county's economy, employment opportunities, or tax base?

Yes No Unsure

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL OBJECTIVES: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

17. Are federal land management actions consistent with your county's objectives?

Yes No Unsure

18. Would your county like state assistance incorporating local government objectives into federal land management actions?

Yes No Unsure

OWNERSHIP AND JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

19. Has your county experienced conflicts with federal ownership or jurisdictional responsibilities?

Yes No (Please attach detailed description of conflicts)

20. How much influence do you believe special interests have on the ability of federal agencies to develop and implement effective land and resource management plans on federal lands in your county?

None Moderate (please explain) Significant (please explain)

21. On a separate sheet, please describe your county's most significant concerns with federal land management, including current and past relations and communications with federal agencies and other relevant factors you believe legislators should be aware of, and provide any ideas that may help reduce risks or resolve concerns.

Thank you for your assistance. Please return your County Commission's response to:

Environmental Quality Council
ATTN: Joe Kolman, SJ15 Survey
Room 171B, Capitol Building
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Submitted by:

Date:

12-10-13

Attested by:



If you have questions or would like more information please contact Joe Kolman, staff for the EQC, at (406) 444-3747 or jkolman@mt.gov or Sen. Jennifer Fielder, the sponsor of SJ15, at (406) 210-5944 or by email at Sen.JFielder@legmt.gov

Kolman, Joe

From: Jennifer Fielder <sen.jfielder@legmt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 4:53 PM
To: Kolman, Joe
Subject: Fwd: SJ15 Survey
Attachments: Survey.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I just received this SJ 15 survey response from Jefferson County.

Jennifer

Senator Jennifer Fielder

Montana State Senate - District 7

email: sen.jfielder@legmt.gov

mailing address: P.O. Box 2558, Thompson Falls, MT 59873

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Helen Auch <hauch@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 4:46 PM
Subject: SJ15 Survey
To: "sen.jfielder@legmt.gov" <sen.jfielder@legmt.gov>

Please see attached.

Helen Auch

Commission Assistant

Phone: [406-225-4025](tel:406-225-4025)

Fax: [406-225-4148](tel:406-225-4148)

This message has been filtered
for spam and viruses
for Jefferson County
by MX Logic.
Carl Purdy, CIO/CSO, Jefferson County