SJ-15 Study Matrix – Working Draft - revised 12-19-13

A. Identify Risks & Concerns *(June-Oct)*	B. Identify Desired Correction and/or Condition *(Sept-Oct)*	C. Identify Barriers Currently Preventing Correction *(Oct-Nov)*	D. Brainstorm & Explore Solutions *(Nov-March)*	E. Develop Action Items *(April-August)*	F. References
INFRASTRUCTURE: Excessive wildfire fuel loads due to insect, disease, and/or lack of active management place infrastructure on or near federally managed lands at risk - including electrical transmission lines, transportation facilities, communication towers, water systems, and other utilities. Costs associated with damage repair.	Active, immediate vegetation management to protect transmission lines and other infrastructure from wildfire, post fire erosion and other risks that can be resolved via active vegetation management while maintaining a desirable ecologic composition and sustainable economic production where practical.	1. Lack of Funding/Personnel 2. Obstructive Litigation 3. Unfavorable Policy 4. Unfavorable priorities	1. Acknowledge emergency condition 2. Expand ROW for maintenance 3. Generate funds 4. MO between Counties, State, & USFS – 5. Employ HSW Jurisdiction 6. Education on benefits of fuel reduction and costs of repairing damage after intense wildfire		
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES: Excessive wildfire fuel loads due to insect, disease, and/or lack of active management on federally managed lands in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) place neighboring public and private property, facilities, infrastructure and communities at risk. Costs associated with damage repair.	Active, immediate vegetation management to prevent intense wildfire and related damages to communities, public and private property, infrastructure, and facilities, especially in wild urban interface (WUI), while maintaining a desirable ecologic composition and sustainable economic production where practical.	1. Lack of Funding/Personnel 2. Obstructive Litigation 3. Unfavorable Policy 4. Unfavorable priorities	Education re: Costs associated with damage repair. Consider enabling legislation that would include international WUI code.		Request input from conservation district – Jeff Teabury, State forester, firewise, feds.
WATER: Excessive wildfire fuel loads and intense wildfires on federally managed lands threaten, poison, and/or physically impair municipal drinking water supplies as well as water supplies for residential, recreational, agricultural, natural, and other uses outside municipal watersheds. Watersheds are not being managed to maximize water yield. Costs associated with damage	Active, immediate vegetation management to prevent damages from intense wildfire and optimize water yield in municipal water sheds as well as other waters outside municipal watersheds, including residential, agricultural, recreational, industrial, and fisheries, while maintaining a desirable ecologic composition and sustainable economic		Prioritize fuel reduction treatments in critical areas – a. municipal/people, b. agricultural, c. environmental, then prioritize those areas most susceptible to severe adverse effect.		Sen. Greg Hinkle suggests looking at an Okanogan NF – Twisp logging project that significantly increased yields and stream flows Research on volume of water held by over-dense timber stands Sierra Nevada Research Institute report number 11.1

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	repair – municipal & agricultural.	production where practical.				
	FISH & WILDLIFE: Large, intense fires on federally managed lands kill fish & wildlife, destroy habitat, poison water, and cause displacement which adversely impacts surviving populations of fish & wildlife beyond the burned area.	Vegetation management to prevent premature death of fish and wildlife and destruction of habitat caused by intense wildfires and to optimize water yield to provide for all needs including human life, economy, and natural environment, while maintaining a desirable ecologic composition and sustainable economic production where practical.		Assess quality of habitat in passive vs. active management areas. Assess quality of habitat in historic use vs current use patterns.		Painted Rocks Reservoir Smoked bear animals burned
	AIR QUALITY: Significant health risks, premature death, and other adverse impacts to Montana citizens and visitors due to high volumes of smoke/toxic air pollution generated by large, intense fires on federally managed lands. In addition to health dangers, prolific and lingering smoke restricts activities, displaces people from their homes and communities, impedes scenic views, and disrupts tourism.	Manage lands to ensure safe and healthy air quality levels. Actively manage vegetation to prevent catastrophic fire events and keep dangerous levels of pollutants from entering the air. Do not burn or let burn unless air quality standards can be met or it is necessary to prevent or contain destructive fires and no other means of doing so are available. Use fire to optimize environmental or economic productivity only when air quality standards are not exceeded.	Prohibitions on active management leads to intense fuel load and limited access for initial attack in some areas.	Prioritize fuel reduction treatments in areas most susceptible to severe adverse effect. Broaden opportunity and time frame for fuel treatments including burning. Coordinate and pre-plan to prevent intense wildfire.		Smoked Bear Report 2002-12 11 Western States Wildfire, Prescriptive, and Fire Use History
	MUTLIPLE USE ACCESS REDUCTIONS: Decommissioning and closing roads and trails severely diminishes access for desirable multiple use activities including resource management, sustenance and recreational uses, emergency ingress/egress, and commercial extraction of natural resources.	Keep access roads intact and available for multiple uses, resource management, and future resource extraction. Prioritize funding for maintenance and repairs of access roads. Allow enough public use to prevent roads from brushing in. Encourage and accommodate volunteerism for maintenance and repairs on roads and trails. Encourage fire wooding to remove downed trees and maintain fire breaks along roads. Increase or preserve multiple use access for all ages, abilities, interests, and classes. Protect RS2477 locally	1. Budget/Cost 2. Mngt classifications - compliance standards 3. Policy/Regulation 4. Paid/Stacked Collaboratives 5. Underappreciated value of access	1. Facilitate Volunteer maintenance contracts/workman's comp 2. RS 2477 Identification/Inventory and affirm local jurisdiction. 3. Prioritization system for roads necessary for initial attack, management of municipal watersheds, future generation timber sales, emergency ingress/egress, multiple use access component, etc. 4. Rotational uses 5. Verify/Modernize definition of		Bruce and Nancy Mehaffie – Deep Creek Capitol Trail Riders Assoc – Townsend Ranger District, Helena National Forest

		owned roads.		multiple use. 6. Increase local authority 7. Consider S327 – HR2401 Good Neighbor Forestry Act		
	INVASIVE PESTS, DISEASE, AND NOXIOUS WEEDS: Proliferation of invasive pests, disease, and noxious weeds is prevalent on federally managed lands and waters.	Control aquatic pests, specifically mussels, at point source. Treat point source. Actively manage to control, contain, and prevent devastating pests from spreading.		Map/inventory infestations Prioritize funding for most necessary and effective pest management. Promote statewide pest management consistency on all lands. Prioritize treatment areas to control, contain, and prevent devastating pests from spreading. Allow motorized access so land managers and private property owners can control pests on their lands.	Jurisdiction for control of navigable wat	BLM & USFS pest control action plan?
	PILT, SRS, ROYALTIES: The substitute funding sources counties rely upon are unreliable and unpredictable due to dependency on renewed congressional approval and the ability of the federal government to pay. PILT & SRS equate to a very low percentage of actual taxable value & resource production capabilities. Fund restrictions.	Increase economic production Generate positive revenue flows like they used to Increase predictability of funding Let willing states counties own/manage public lands, generate revues locally		Assess PILT vs. actual taxable value		Wyoming study Intertech Study – Baugham
	INADEQUATE FUNDING: Inadequate federal funding and/or prioritization for proper resource management, wildfire fuel reduction, wildfire rehabilitation, maintenance and repair of infrastructure, multiple-use access, and fire suppression.	Encourage prioritization toward situational prevention vs. post emergency repairs. Increase resource based economic productivity to generate positive revenue flows like they used to. Improve predictability of funding. Let willing states/counties own/manage public lands, implement local priorities and generate revenues locally. Encourage funding for work		Assess State vs. Federal Economics		

		force commensurate with land management goals and legal obligations.				
	SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY: Inaccurate, selective, biased, and/or outdated science and technology are being used in resource management plans, reports, administrative rules, federal policies, decisions, and enforcement.	Ensure scientific integrity. Require reports upon which policy decisions are based to follow scientific and statistical confidence standards and blind peer review typical of scientific journal publication. Remove bias, concentrate on facts instead of philosophy. Require minority report.				
	MISSION CONFLICT: Several federal laws, executive orders, and rules are in conflict with the original purpose and authority related to federal land acquisitions, federal reservations, and the mission of managing agencies. This has resulted in contradictory policies and management constraints that are sometimes adversarial to the environment, economy, as well as public health, safety, and welfare.	Establish clarity of mission and purpose for being and consistency of laws and regulations in accordance with that mission.				
	HABITAT CAPACITY: USFWS does not consider range or carrying capacity of habitat on federal lands when determining target populations of predators and other wildlife.	Base decision on carrying capacity balanced with multiple use -not unscientific political decisions. Take a programmatic approach to landscape habitat capacity, range, and multiple uses to optimize health of environment, species success, and desirable human uses of land. Prioritize protection of local social and economic values, including public health and safety. Optimize production of lands by utilizing grazing. Keep in mind livestock is restricted from moving freely, while wildlife flows across landscape.		Comprehensive analysis of compatibility of target fish or wildlife population with other present species, range, carrying capacity of habitat, and multiple uses including grazing and timber management. Integrate valid, updated scientific information into land management and target population considerations.		

	YPN BISON– populations expanding beyond Yellowstone National Park boundary into Montana, creating jurisdictional questions and management problems for the state of Montana.				(consult w/Dept. of Livestock, A.G., FWP, Tribes, Federal agencies – DOI/NPS)	Helen Thigpen Memo: The state has the authority to manage the bison when they leave the park.
	USFSW is not placing a priority on acknowledging adverse impacts of predators, invasive plant species, and wildfire on Sage Grouse populations. Comprehensive management considerations associated with multiple species seems lacking.	Retain state management of all fish and wildlife species. Recognize grazing's benefits to healthy plant communities. Need to recognize adverse impacts of cheat grass and other invasive species, wildfire, hunting, and predation on sage grouse.				Jan 14-15-16 Sage Grouse Council Link to 30 year biologist's report
	TIMBER INDUSTRY VIABILITY: Although an over-abundance of timber exists in many national forests, the viability of timber and wood products industries and related jobs and infrastructure are threatened by bureaucratic impediments, declining forest health, and unpredictable supply due to federal policies, litigation and administrative costs, and management constraints.	Resource management which stimulates a viable timber industry and results in a broad distribution of mills across the state.				
	OWNERSHIP: Federally managed public lands might be sold or collateralized to private parties or foreign nations without state legislature's consent.	Require state legislature's consent prior to sale, transfer, or acquisition of federally controlled public lands within Montana. Do not encumber public lands as collateral to lenders .				
	OWNERSHIP: Checkerboard pattern of federal lands makes management and public access difficult.	Develop a fair and equitable system for consolidation of ownership to reduce difficulties in management, use, and access associated with land locked or limited access pieces.				
	UNFAVORABLE TIMBER					

	MANGEMENT: Unmanaged, overpopulated timber stands contribute to insect infestations, declining timber health, drought, intense wildfire, reduced watershed yields, and adverse effects on wildlife habitat. Policies favoring weak, less useful timber like pine instead of stronger more useful fir and larch are bad for commercial supply. Not cutting in accordance with sustained yield capabilities.					
	ADVERSE IMPACTS OF ESA: Adverse impact on state, counties, private property, industry, lives, use permits, and livelihoods associated with protected species policies and the magnitude of unknown costs and consequences. Arbitrary listings. Slow-cumbersome delisting process.					
	NON-ESSENTIAL CLASSIFICATION: Lands, resources, and personnel assigned to mage these resources that are so critical to Montana's economy and environment , and many Montanan's way of life and happiness, have been deemed non-essential and shut down by the federal government.					
	UNSUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS: Revenues generated by BLM go to DC Treasury. USFS no longer generates positive revenues.					
	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Notification and decisions, policies, meeting formats, length of documents, and technical procedures favor paid participation and disenfranchise					

	average citizens leaving local residents, land owners, forest users, and small communities feeling overwhelmed and powerless.					
	OWNERSHIP: Unconstitutional acquisitions and contradictory retention policy versus enabling act/statehood compact.					
	SHUTDOWN: Another shutdown of the public lands and treasured places controlled by the federal government.	No shutdown Contingency plan to protect MT interests		What worked in other states?		http://www.opb.org/news/article/federal-judge-orders-logging-to-resume-immediately/
	JURISDICTION: Confusion over jurisdiction.					
	PERMITS: Cabin sites leases, grazing AUMs outfitting, mineral extraction, oil & gas. Expense and length of time to secure permits; vulnerability to subjective approval, denial, classification, and/or revocation of permits. Complications – Grazing ESA, fencing requirements, water,	GRAZING: size of cow should be considered in carrying capacity, AUM should be based on sustainability per science not politics.		Look at historic trends AUM's associated with various political entities.		
	LACK OF PRODUCTION: – available resources not being utilized at an acceptable rate -- saw timber, small wood, oil, gas, and mineral resources not being utilized enough. Canadian subsidized timber effect on U.S.			(Look at national economy year by year compare extraction to commodity prices)		
	FACTS - PUBLIC PERCEPTION – Lack of education and awareness about the benefits of sustained yield active mngt, utilization of natural resources, and related impacts on economy, jobs, environment, communities.					

	HESITANCY: Some citizens, employees, permit holders, elected officials, etc. are hesitant to offer less than supportive and/or constructive criticism due to fear of offending federal decision makers, and/or suffering retribution via unfavorable funding and/or management outcomes.					
	CONGRESS: Ineffectiveness, complicated and contradictory policies, lack of budget.					

SJ-15 Study Matrix Reference Materials:

Economic Impact of Public Lands Managed by the Federal Government, Pam Borda, Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority

State Forests Management Superior to Federal Forests – United States House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings

Forest Service Presentation to Public Service Commission on transmission lines