



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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

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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

### Results as of Dec. 11, 2013

27 of 35 counties responded

Please see table of responses and individual responses for more information

#### **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: *23 counties marked all three. 1 county marked public and private property 1 marked unsure*  
\_\_\_ 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?  
\_\_23\_\_ Yes \_\_\_1\_\_ No \_\_2\_\_ Unsure

3. Regarding the water supply your citizens use, does current federal land management of watersheds:  
\_\_2\_\_ Optimize water yield \_\_\_14\_\_ Diminish water yield \_\_6\_\_ 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.?  
\_\_24\_\_ Very Important \_\_\_ Not Important \_\_\_1\_\_ 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?  
\_\_5\_\_ Yes \_\_\_14\_\_ No \_\_\_7\_\_ Unsure

6. Regarding multiple-use recreational access routes on federal lands, does your county desire:  
\_\_17\_\_ Increased Multi-Use Access \_\_\_ Reduced Multi-Use Access \_\_\_8\_\_ 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)

24 Yes      1 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)?

19 Yes      4 No      1 Unsure

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

3 Yes      19 No      2 Unsure

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

15 Yes      6 No      5 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?

2 Yes      21 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?

2 Yes      18 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?

1 Yes      15 No      9 Unsure

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

21 Yes      1 No      2 Unsure

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

17 Yes      2 No      5 Unsure

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

20 Yes      1 No      5 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?

1 Yes                    18 No    5 Unsure

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

12 Yes                    7 No    6 Unsure

**OWNERSHIP AND JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

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

13 Yes                    10 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?

1 None                    2 Moderate (please explain)    23 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:

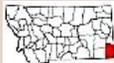
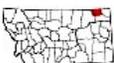
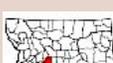
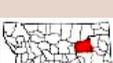
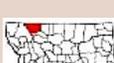
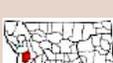
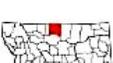
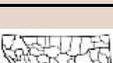
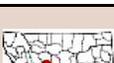
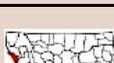
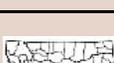
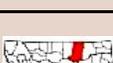
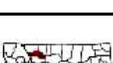
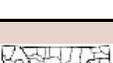
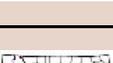
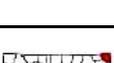
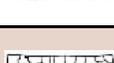
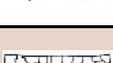
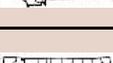
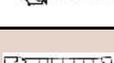
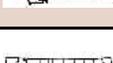
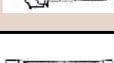
Attested by:

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

## County Survey Results

County with at least 15% federal land

A blue link indicates a survey has been returned. Click on link for survey results.  
 See summary next page.

<a href="#">Beaverhead</a> 	Big Horn 	Blaine 	<a href="#">Broadwater</a> 
<a href="#">Carbon</a> 	Carter 	Cascade 	Chouteau 
<a href="#">Custer</a> 	Daniels 	Dawson 	<a href="#">Deer Lodge</a> 
Fallon 	<a href="#">Fergus</a> 	<a href="#">Flathead</a> 	<a href="#">Gallatin</a> 
<a href="#">Garfield</a> 	Glacier 	Golden Valley 	<a href="#">Granite</a> 
Hill 	<a href="#">Jefferson</a> 	<a href="#">Judith Basin</a> 	<a href="#">Lake</a> 
<a href="#">Lewis and Clark</a> 	Liberty 	<a href="#">Lincoln</a> 	McCone 
Madison 	Meagher 	<a href="#">Mineral</a> 	<a href="#">Missoula</a> 
Musselshell 	<a href="#">Park</a> 	Petroleum 	<a href="#">Phillips</a> 
Pondera 	<a href="#">Powder River</a> 	<a href="#">Powell</a> 	Prairie 
<a href="#">Ravalli</a> 	Richland 	Roosevelt 	Rosebud 
<a href="#">Sanders</a> 	Sheridan 	Silver Bow 	<a href="#">Stillwater</a> 
<a href="#">Sweet Grass</a> 	<a href="#">Teton</a> 	Toole 	Treasure 
<a href="#">Valley</a> 	Wheatland 	Wibaux 	Yellowstone 

