



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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

**GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK**  
**DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE**  
TIM BAKER

**HOUSE MEMBERS**  
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JERRY BENNETT  
VIRGINIA COURT  
ED LIESER  
JEFFREY WELBORN  
KERRY WHITE

**SENATE MEMBERS**  
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JENNIFER FIELDER  
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT  
JIM KEANE  
RICK RIPLEY  
GENE VUCKOVICH

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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

## MINUTES LOG

Work Group for Senate Joint Resolution 15  
Public Land Management Study

December 19, 2013

Room 172, State Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE CONFERENCE

SEN. JENNIFER FIELDER  
SEN. BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT

REP. ED LIESER  
REP. KERRY WHITE

### STAFF PRESENT IN HELENA

JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst  
HELEN THIGPEN, Staff Attorney  
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

## **AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST**

Agenda, [Attachment 1](#).  
Visitors' list, [Attachment 2](#).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

- Scheduled the next work group meeting for January 2, 2014

## **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

00:00:01 Sen. Fielder called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. The secretary called the roll, [Attachment 3](#).

## **AGENDA**

### **Work Group discussion on the study matrix**

00:00:49 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on the study matrix, [Exhibit 1](#).  
00:01:56 Rep. Lieser  
00:09:36 Sen. Fielder  
00:09:40 Rep. White  
00:10:45 Rep. Lieser asked if the report from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), indicating how prescribed burns are coordinated with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), could be included under Column E, references.  
00:11:01 Sen. Fielder  
00:11:30 Rep. Lieser  
00:11:50 Sen. Fielder  
00:12:00 Mr. Joe Kolman, Legislative Environmental Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
00:12:18 Mr. John Hagengruber, USFS, Northern Region  
00:13:02 Sen. Fielder  
00:13:12 Mr. Hagengruber  
00:13:31 Sen. Fielder  
00:13:47 Rep. White  
00:15:02 Sen. Fielder  
00:15:29 Rep. White  
00:15:40 Rep. Lieser  
00:16:49 Sen. Fielder  
00:16:58 Rep. Lieser  
00:17:04 Sen. Fielder  
00:17:12 Rep. Lieser  
00:18:09 Sen. Fielder  
00:18:17 Rep. Lieser  
00:18:52 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on mission conflicts.  
00:20:22 Rep. Lieser  
00:20:53 Sen. Fielder

00:21:05 Rep. Lieser  
00:21:10 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on habitat capacity.  
00:21:50 Rep. White  
00:24:02 Sen. Fielder  
00:27:29 Rep. White  
00:28:24 Sen. Fielder  
00:29:14 Rep. Lieser  
00:29:47 Sen. Fielder  
00:29:56 Rep. White  
00:33:42 Rep. Lieser  
00:35:02 Rep. White  
00:36:03 Sen. Fielder  
00:36:52 Sen. Hamlett  
00:38:31 Sen. Fielder  
00:38:38 Rep. White  
00:39:44 Sen. Hamlett  
00:41:18 Sen. Fielder  
00:41:55 Sen. Hamlett  
00:44:41 Sen. Fielder  
00:45:58 Sen. Hamlett  
00:47:08 Sen. Fielder  
00:47:17 Rep. White  
00:47:24 Sen. Fielder  
00:47:30 Mr. Kolman said that he would include the link for the Taylor Grazing Act under references.  
00:47:44 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on Yellowstone park bison.  
00:48:23 Ms. Helen Thigpen, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
00:49:33 Sen. Fielder  
00:50:03 Ms. Thigpen  
00:50:53 Sen. Fielder  
00:51:32 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on sage grouse.  
00:52:29 Sen. Hamlett  
00:57:43 Sen. Fielder  
00:58:18 Rep. White  
00:58:53 Sen. Hamlett  
00:59:45 Sen. Fielder  
01:00:03 Sen. Hamlett  
01:01:01 Sen. Fielder  
01:01:16 Sen. Hamlett  
01:01:57 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on timber industry viability.  
01:02:19 Rep. Lieser  
01:03:08 Sen. Fielder  
01:03:25 Rep. Lieser  
01:03:53 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on ownership of federally managed public lands.  
01:05:42 Sen. Hamlett  
01:05:53 Sen. Fielder  
01:07:36 Rep. Lieser  
01:08:10 Sen. Fielder

01:09:44 Rep. White  
01:11:50 Sen. Fielder  
01:12:49 Sen. Hamlett  
01:13:42 Sen. Fielder  
01:14:12 Rep. Lieser  
01:15:10 Sen. Fielder  
01:15:18 Mr. Hagengruber  
01:15:24 Sen. Fielder  
01:15:58 Mr. Hagengruber  
01:16:05 Rep. White  
01:16:44 Rep. Lieser  
01:17:04 Sen. Fielder  
01:17:39 Mr. Hagengruber  
01:17:52 Sen. Fielder  
01:18:04 Sen. Hamlett  
01:21:50 Sen. Fielder  
01:22:45 Sen. Fielder opened the discussion on the checkerboard pattern of federal land ownership.  
01:22:58 Rep. Lieser  
01:24:53 Rep. White  
01:26:45 Sen. Fielder  
01:30:03 Rep. Lieser  
01:30:27 Sen. Fielder  
01:30:32 Sen. Hamlett  
01:33:06 Sen. Fielder  
01:33:58 Rep. Lieser  
01:34:48 Sen. Fielder  
01:35:22 Rep. White  
01:36:30 Sen. Fielder  
01:36:36 Rep. White  
01:36:58 Mr. Hagengruber  
01:37:24 Mr. Kolman  
01:37:41 Sen. Fielder

#### **Public comment**

01:38:13 Mr. Hagengruber  
01:42:00 Mr. Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

#### **Questions and further discussion**

01:44:46 Sen. Fielder  
01:44:52 Rep. Lieser  
01:45:20 Mr. Blattie  
01:45:41 Sen. Hamlett  
01:47:13 Sen. Fielder  
01:48:05 Mr. Blattie  
01:49:01 Sen. Fielder

01:50:31 Rep. Lieser  
01:50:45 Sen. Fielder  
01:50:49 Sen. Hamlett  
01:51:03 Sen. Fielder  
01:51:09 Sen. Hamlett  
01:51:34 Mr. Kolman  
01:52:29 Sen. Fielder  
01:52:34 Sen. Hamlett  
01:53:00 Sen. Fielder  
01:53:06 Mr. Kolman  
01:53:37 Sen. Fielder  
01:54:03 Mr. Kolman  
01:54:30 Rep. Lieser  
01:54:56 Sen. Fielder

01:55:14 Sen. Fielder adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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