**MEPA Training for State Employees**

April 2-3, 2020

Via Zoom

**April 2 - MEPA Basics**

Course Description: When MEPA is implemented correctly, it results in better, more legally defensible decisions. This course will provide an overview of MEPA, its history and legislative changes, and answer the following questions: 1) When is a MEPA review necessary? 2) What form with the MEPA review take? 3) How is a MEPA document completed? 4) How are decisions made with MEPA? The course will include review and evaluation of real world MEPA documents.

Instructor: Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst, Legislative Environmental Policy Office

8:00 a.m. Zoom connection open to log on and get ready

8:30 a.m. Welcome, Introductions

History and Purpose of MEPA

When is a MEPA review necessary?

What are impacts?

What is significant?

What form will the MEPA review take?

10:00 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. How to complete a MEPA document

Determining purpose and need

Describing the proposed action

Conducting scoping

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Developing alternatives

Impacts analysis

(a 15 minute break will occur at approximately 2:45 p.m.)

Cumulative impacts

Relevant case law

How are decisions made with MEPA

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

**April 3 - MEPA Plus**

9:30 a.m. Zoom connection open to log on and get ready

10 a.m. - **Online Analysis/Data Tools**

Presenter: Erin Fashoway, GIS Coordinator, Montana State Library

Session goal: Not an expert in all analysis areas? Limited time and resources to work with? This session will teach you where to find readily available online data to help complete your environmental analysis.

11 a.m. - **Interagency Coordination**

Presenter: Brian Sweatland, Region 1 NEPA Coordinator, US Forest Service

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. **Spotlight on Scoping - When and how**

Moderator: Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst, Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Panelists: Linnaea Schroeer, MEPA Coordinator, FWP

Randy Arnold, Region 1 Administrator, FWP

Craig Campbell, Bozeman Unit Manager for Trust Lands and Forestry, DNRC

2 p.m. **Spotlight on the Record** - What's required for a decision notice and how to write a good one

Moderator: Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst, Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Panelists: Aimee Hawkaluk, Special Assistant Attorney General, FWP

Mark Phares, Special Assistant Attorney General, DNRC, Missoula

Craig Campbell, Manager, Bozeman Unit of Trust Lands and Forestry Division, DNRC

3 p.m. Adjourn