

SJ-15 SURVEY OF MONTANA COUNTY COMMISSIONS

This survey is being conducted as a result of the legislature's passage of SJ-15, Study of Federal Land Management (copy enclosed). Please provide your Board of County Commissioners' response, to the best of your ability, by August 24, 2013

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 _____ Unsure
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 _____ Unsure
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. On a separate sheet, please describe your county's most significant concerns with federal land management, include 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 postmarked by August 24, 2013 to:

State of Montana Environmental Quality Council; P.O. Box 201706; Helena, MT 59620-1706

Submitted by _____ County, MT Date: _____

Attested by: _____