



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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SJ-15 SURVEY OF MONTANA COUNTY COMMISSIONS

Results as of April 14, 2014

28 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: *22 marked All. 1 marked public and private property. 1 marked unsure. 1 marked private.*
___ 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?
__6__ Yes _13__ 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?

16 Yes 5 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 16 No 8 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 _8___ No _5___ Unsure

OWNERSHIP AND JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

_12___ Yes _11___ 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.