

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/3/2019 6:23:51 PM

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Comments:

RE: Forest Plan Revision Draft Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rollout Tomorrow - March 1

Greetings,

Outlined below are the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's comments on the CGNF Draft EIS.

Air Quality

1. Page 37 and 39 - Airshed Group

"The Montana or Idaho Airshed Group Smoke Program Coordinator uses the burn information, along with meteorological forecasts, to recommend burn restrictions for airsheds with planned burning. The smoke monitoring unit issues daily burn recommendations for airsheds, elevations, or impact zones on the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group Website." Page 39

"Member burners of the Montana or Idaho Airshed Group (including the Forest Service) submit burn requests to the Smoke Monitoring Unit, which coordinates and approves prescribed burning activities in a manner designed to meet ambient air quality standards." Page 37

DEQ Comment: Consider changing to "The Smoke Monitoring Unit coordinates with the state regulatory agencies to issue daily burn recommendations.."

2. Page 42 - Nonattainment Areas

DEQ Comment: Billings SO2 is now a Maintenance Area, not a Nonattainment Area.

3. Page 43 - "Plotting the 20 percent most impaired (highest fraction of haze) days of human caused sources (excluding natural sources such as wildland fires) and re an increase in visibility at both the NOAB1 and YELL 2 IMPROVE sites between 2004 and 2014. "

DEQ Comment: The most impaired days doesn't exclude wildland fires, it just ranks the days based on anthropogenic visibility impairment instead of total haze. This is worded a bit clunky.

4. Page 44 - "The monitors measure ambient concentrations of ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and particulate matter of 10 microns (PM10) and 2.5 microns (PM2.5) (table 10). "

DEQ Comment: Table 10 is emissions, not concentrations.

Water Quality

DEQ would like to complement the Forest Service on their attention to water quality/stream protection and the effort they put forth in incorporating wetland protection into their planning.

Thank you for including Montana DEQ in the Intergovernmental Working Group.

Jen Lane

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Senior MEPA Coordinator

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From: FS-Forest Plan Revision Custer Gallatin [mailto:cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 12:26 PM

Subject: Forest Plan Revision Draft Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rollout Tomorrow - March 1

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Intergovernmental Working Group -

Hello from the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision Team.

We wanted to check back in since our December webinar.

The Forest would like to make you aware that tomorrow, March 1, 2019 we will be releasing the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), along with executive summary and associated appendices.

All documents will be available for download tomorrow (likely by midday) at: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin <<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fs.usda.gov%2Fcustergallatin&data=02%7C01%7Cjlane2%40mt.gov%7C3812033faba44915d60108d69db2af9c%7C07a94c98f30f4abbbd7ed63f8720dc02%7C0%7C1%7C636869788164884915&sdata=LGqA0cz6gM%2Ftfna%2Bg2AVmDiSM2Yayq0Sx8XrSDbzOco%3D&reserved=0>> , then click on Forest Plan Revision and Draft Plan/Draft EIS.

We have 10 public meetings scheduled in April, along with webinar and podcast opportunities.

The comment period will run March 1 - June 5, 2019.

With that we'll also have our next IGWG webinar on Monday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us to orient and answer questions about Draft Plan/Draft EIS.

Tune in on mobile device or computer at: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/cgfp-500/> <<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusfs.adobeconnect.com%2Fcgfp-500%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cjlane2%40mt.gov%7C3812033faba44915d60108d69db2af9c%7C07a94c98f30f4abbbd7ed63f8720dc02%7C0%7C1%7C636869788164884915&sdata=l6FYgeOtWts7BBWs8Q1uWHJhW60TcOLILLsnXR5o%3D&reserved=0>>

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