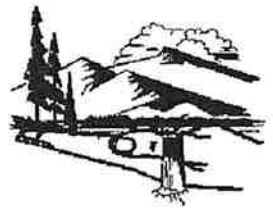




Mark Gordon, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Todd Parfitt, Director

January 6, 2025

Kate Olsen
Pinedale Ranger District
29 East Fremont Lake Rd.
Pinedale, WY 82941

RE: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Comments - East Rim WUI Vegetation Management Scoping

Dear Ms. Olsen

On behalf of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the East Rim WUI Vegetation Management Scoping. WDEQ is charged with conserving and enhancing the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations. We envision a future where vibrant economic development and prosperity are achieved while providing sound and sensible environmental protection that protects human health and the environment.

It is important to note as a foundation for our comments that WDEQ has been delegated primacy over multiple programs by the federal government – water, air, solid and hazardous waste, abandoned mine land reclamation, coal mining, and underground injection control (UIC) wells, including class VI, for the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide. In addition, WDEQ permits and regulates all minerals mined in the state such as gravel and bentonite. WDEQ has also received an agreement state status with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for uranium mining and processing in the State of Wyoming. Wyoming received primacy delegations and agreement status as a result of federal agencies agreeing that Wyoming and WDEQ have the environmental, permitting and regulatory structure in place to ensure that any activity within WDEQ's authority is handled in a manner that protects human health and environment.

WDEQ offers the following comments:

- The USFS should adhere to WDEQ's Smoke Management Program regulations including burn registration, and post burn reporting. More information on WDEQ's Smoke Management Program can be found here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/aqd/smoke-management-and-open-burning/smoke-management/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Keith Guille at 307-777-6105 or keith.guille@wyo.gov.

Sincerely,



Alan Edwards
Deputy Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Todd Parfitt – Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Nancy Vehr – Air Quality Division Administrator
Keith Guille – Outreach Program Manager