

Feb. 5, 2019

Forest Service - USDA
Dakota Prairie Grasslands
2000 Miriam Circle
Bismarck ND 58501

Dear Forest Service personnel:

I wanted to comment on proposed Alternative 3 of the USDA's Forest Service Little Missouri National Grasslands prior to the comment period expiration date, that I just found today had already expired on Jan. 16th, 2019. It is my understanding that Alternative 3 was the preferred option for the U.S. Forest Service, amongst three possible outcomes for the Grasslands.

I realize that any comments made since Jan. 16th will likely not be included in your comprehensive comments review, but I wanted to express my support for the Forest Service's preferred Alternative 3, based on the Executive Summary. For example, on page 8 of the Summary there are four 'new' proposals to provide better protections for the Badlands' roadless areas, where the oil/gas leasing with current (Alternative 1) regulations covers 75,100 acres.

With the Service's preferred Alternative 3, leasing would cover additional roadless/no surface occupancy acreage up to 107,800 acres. Added protections listed include timing limitations that would inhibit noise over 20dB < 2 miles from active leks; more controlled surface protections of ~ ¼ mile buffer for the threatened greater sage-grouse populations, etc.

Due to the rapid loss of roadless habitats within the Grasslands, it is imperative that the Forest Service and state work together to protect what little remains of these unspoiled discrete sites, including prohibiting any surface occupancy, temporary roads or other non-natural uses within the inventoried roadless areas; for example, Bullion Buttes and many others. This would also help protect mapped populations of threatened plants as noted in the Summary. North Dakota's last remaining roadless areas should certainly be protected, as they are a national resource sought out by many national and international tourists/backpackers and fall within the Service's multiple use authorizations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter regardless of whether or not it will be included within your responses review.

Regards,
Kirk Johnson
Kirk Johnson
Bismarck ND

1829 N. 17th St.
Bismarck ND 58501

