

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Northwestern Land Office



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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November 13, 2020

Robert Davies, District Ranger
Glacier View Ranger District
P.O. Box 190340
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

Re: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Support for the Frozen Moose Project Draft Decision Notice and Request for Interested Party Status.

Dear Mr. Davies,

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) strongly supports the Draft Decision for the Frozen Moose Project. The approximately 8,077 acres of vegetation treatments, primarily within or near the Wildland Urban Interface, will effectively reduce wildland fire risk and improve forest health and resiliency. The project will improve access and safety for fire fighters and the public. DNRC also supports treatments proposed for inventoried roadless areas, riparian management zones, and the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The treatments will increase diversity of forest structure and composition and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

In implementation we encourage you to consider factors that can increase the economic viability of the project while meeting objectives for forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and other resources. We also encourage you to coordinate project implementation with state and private landowners in the area. DNRC has programs to assist private landowners in the area with treatments on their lands. Also consider the use the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which will retain timber revenue to help fund additional restoration projects.

Because of our strong interest, DNRC is requesting to remain an "interested party" regarding all objections to the Draft Decision. If changes requested by another party present the potential to reduce the ability to meet wildfire risk and forest health goals, impact access to state trust lands, or adversely affect DNRC's fire protection of state and private lands, DNRC requests participation in objection resolution discussions.

DNRC is committed to continuing a positive working relationship with the Flathead National Forest, specifically relating to landscape resiliency, wildfire response, community protection,

and sustainable forest management. By working together we can more effectively work towards an “all lands” approach to forest and watershed management and restoration benefiting both agencies’ missions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Poncin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Poncin" clearly legible.

Greg Poncin
Area Manager
Northwestern Land Office
MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

CC: Dave Ring, Unit Manager Stillwater Unit; Stephen Kimball- Local Government Forest Advisor; Appeals Coordinator, USFS Northern Region