

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Central Land Office • Helena Unit  
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GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

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## STATE OF MONTANA

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PO BOX 2016  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-16

July X, 2022

Dale Olsen, District Ranger  
Madison Ranger District  
5 Forest Service Road  
Ennis, MT 59729

Re: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Comments on the  
Greenhorn Vegetation Project Draft Decision Notice

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Decision Notice for the Greenhorn Vegetation Project. The project is located in the northwest corner of the Gravelly landscape, about ten miles south of Virginia City. DNRC has fire protection interests in this area and manages state trust lands in the vicinity. Our agencies share the common goals of reducing fire risk and improving forest health in Montana's forest landscapes. The project is not only important for the national forest system lands but also for the state and private landowners in the area.

DNRC supports the selection of Alternative 2 (proposed action) for implementation. The vegetation treatments on 17,092 acres will help restore and maintain the structure, function, composition, and connectivity of forest terrestrial systems. In addition, the project will improve conditions for public and firefighter safety, promote forest health, create more resilient watersheds, and mitigate wildland fire danger and wildland fire suppression costs.

The project aligns well with the goals in the Montana Forest Action Plan (MFAP). A portion of the planning area in the north (between Idaho Creek and Barton Guich) is identified as a Priority Area for Further Attention in the Montana Forest Action Plan due to risk to wildfire impacts.

DNRC looks forward to working with you in implementation of the project. 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, 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 Beaverhead-Deerlodge 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 "Hoyt Richards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hoyt" and last name "Richards" clearly legible.

Hoyt Richards, Area Manager, Central Land Office  
MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

CC: Tim Egan, Dillon Unit Manager; Stephen Kimball- Local Government Forest Advisor