

OTHER DISCLOSURES

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) “Regulations For Implementing The Procedural Provisions Of The National Environmental Policy Act” (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) provide direction on addressing the environmental consequences of an action within an EIS (40 CFR 1502.16). This direction is met through the discussion presented in Chapters 3 and 4 of this FEIS. In addition, the regulations specify certain considerations, consistency with which may not be apparent given that the discussion within the FEIS is focused on individual resource issues. This section is designed to specifically address these other considerations or reference where within this document a discussion can be found. In addition, this section identifies the “environmentally preferred” alternative and addresses Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice.

Potential Adverse Environmental Effects that Cannot be Avoided (40 CFR 1502.16)

Chapters 3 and 4 of this FEIS address the potential environmental consequences of seven alternatives for a Travel Management Plan. In general, any adverse “environmental” effects can be avoided through increased restrictions on human use. However, increased restrictions also limit recreation opportunities. The seven alternatives were created, in part, to sharply define these issues and provide a clear basis for comparison. In other words, adoption of a Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan does not necessarily mean that adverse environmental effects cannot be avoided, however some resource impacts may be determined to be acceptable in light of providing for a variety of recreation uses.

Short-term Use vs. Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity (40 CFR 1502.16)

Chapters 3 and 4 of this FEIS discuss the potential resource impacts of each of the seven Travel Plan alternatives including the potential consequences to soil, vegetation, water quality and biological diversity. Otherwise human travel within the Gallatin National Forest would not be considered a short-term consumptive use such as timber harvest or mining. In general travel would not affect the ability of the land to produce continuous supplies of other Forest resources.

Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources (40 CFR 1502.16)

An “irreversible” commitment of resources results from a decision to use or modify resources that are renewable only over a long period of time. Non-renewable resources, such as minerals, are an irreversible commitment if used. An “irrecoverable” commitment of resources refers to resources, resource production or the use of renewable resources that are lost because of land allocation or scheduling decisions. The decision for a Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan would not result in any irreversible or irrecoverable commitment of resources. This action can result in certain effects which are described throughout Chapter 3 of this FEIS, including potential effects to wildlife habitat and recreation opportunity. However the Travel Plan would not be an irreversible

or irretrievable commitment because human travel is not a consumptive use and the Plan itself could be changed at any time.

Direct and Indirect Effects of the Alternatives and their Significance [40 CFR 1502.16 (a, b and d)]

The projected direct and indirect effects of the alternatives are addressed as a subsection for each resource issue discussed in Chapter 3 and 4 of this FEIS.

Possible Conflicts with Plans and Policies of other Jurisdictions [40 CFR 1502.16(c)]

Consistency with laws, regulations, policy, and federal, regional, state and local land use plans is addressed as a subsection for each resource issue discussed in Chapter 3 of this FEIS.

Energy Requirements [40 CFR 1502.16(e)]

The predicted energy requirements of the Travel Plan alternatives are discussed as Issue 26 in Chapter 4 of this FEIS.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative(s)

Alternatives 2 through 7-Modified are all projected to improve environmental conditions over current management of Forest travel and therefore would be environmentally preferred over Alternative 1 or no action.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations,” directs federal agencies to integrate environmental justice considerations into federal programs and activities. “Environmental justice” means that, to the greatest extent practical and permitted by law, all populations are provided the opportunity to comment before decisions are rendered or are allowed to share in the benefits of, are not excluded from, and are not affected in a disproportionately high and adverse manner by government programs and activities affecting human health or the environment. The Forest Service has provided notice of comment opportunities and has considered all public input from persons or groups regardless of age, race, income status, or other social/economic characteristics. There would be no adverse effects to human health and no alternative has been determined to disproportionately affect minority or low income populations.