PART 1

CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND SOLUTIONS FOR OUR PUBLIC LANDS

Because we all want Healthy air, water and wildlife, Abundant outdoor recreation, and Safe, vibrant communities.
Jennifer Fielder

Elected to Montana State Senate in 2012
Chair – SJ 15 State Study of Federal Land Management 2013-14
CEO – The American Lands Council 2016-Present

Avid Outdoorswoman, Resident of Beautiful Northwest Montana
Areas shown in red are federally controlled lands.
Guess Which Half of This Forest is Managed by the Federal Government?

A: The left (mostly dead) half.
TYPICAL, UNTENDED NATIONAL FOREST
Dense, overgrown, unhealthy...

A catastrophic wildfire waiting to happen.
TIMBER SOLD vs. BURNED

- Decreased Logging
- Increased Wildfire

Graph showing the correlation between the volume of timber sold (MBF) and wildfires (Acres) from 1990 to 2010.
Wildfires in 11 western states, * 1916-2012

*11 states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
Since 1995 the Federal Gov’t has CLOSED over 20,000 miles of access roads on federally controlled public lands – just in Montana alone.

That’s a loss of 1,000 miles per year!

Data from HJR13 Montana EQC Legislative Study
Inventory of roads closed to motorized access
Only 9% of this massive burned area is available for salvage logging. The rest remains in “lock it up and let it burn” (again) mode.
“The selected alternative will limit our ability as resource managers to respond to fire, windthrow, insects and disease, and to provide timber or other commodities.”

Page 34, Record of Decision, Forest Plan Amendments - Motorized Access Management Within the Selkirk & Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone.

-U.S. Forest Service
National forests are in worse condition today than 30-40 years ago.

USFS no longer producing positive revenues.

USFS budget mostly allocated to fighting fire and fighting lawsuits instead of resource management.

-Montana Legislative Hearings 2013-14
DIRE CONSEQUENCES

10,000 miles of major electrical transmission lines at risk on national forests in Western U.S.

(USDA REPORT: Forest Health & Western Utilities, 8/27/13)
WORSENING TRENDS

“Fires are becoming larger and more severe.”

“Trends indicate the amount of wildfire and associated damage will increase beyond our recent experiences.”

“The forest service does not have the budget to treat the affected acres.”

-- USFS Risk & Reliability Report Aug 2013
LIVES IN JEOPARDY

Most Destructive Wildfire In Wash. Leaves Thousands Without AC, Gas, ATMs

By COURTNEY FLATT • JUL 21, 2014

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A helicopter preparing to drop water is dwarfed by a billowing cloud of smoke from a wildfire Friday, July 18, 2014, in Twisp, Wash. A fire racing through rural north-central Washington destroyed about 100 homes.
Wildfire devastation: First fire, then floods in besieged Western forests

In this May 10, photo provided by the U.S. Forest Service, a forest left scorched by the High Park Fire is covered in a layer of highly-absorbent agricultural straw used to mitigate erosion and flooding, a process known as helmulching, near Fort Collins, Colo. In Colorado, multiple flash floods have struck the summer in or near scars left by last year’s wildfires. The U.S. Forest Service spent nearly $46 million nationwide in fiscal 2012 on emergency erosion measures. The money paid for much to absorb rain, shoring up roads and trails, and reseeding. (The Associated Press)
Don’t we all want HEALTHY AIR, WATER & WILDLIFE?
ABUNDANT OUTDOOR RECREATION?
SAFE, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES ?
“HANDS-OFF” MANAGEMENT IS NOT WORKING

i.e. “No Compromise - Hands Off, Don’t Touch!”
IT’S NOT A MUSEUM
IT’S A GARDEN
Lack of Active Vegetation Management = DIRTY AIR,
POLLUTED WATER,
DECIMATED WILDLIFE;
BLOCKED OFF ACCESS
AND ECONOMICALLY DEVASTATED,
DEPRESSED,
UNSAFE COMMUNITIES.
ANIMALS BURNED ALIVE

Did “Cinder Bear’ survive?
See part 2, continued...