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USDA Forest Service
Content Analysis Enterprise Team
ATT: UFP, Building 2, Suite 295
5500 Amelia Earhart Drive
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Gentlemen:

I am writing to comment on the unified federal policy on watersheds. This was developed in secret without public comment and then put into the federal register last August 23, 1999 probably while congress was not in session. The public has largely been excluded from this process and as recently as this week Senator Burns, Senator Baucus and Representative Hill's offices in Washington, D.C. did not know where to send comments even though the comment period is apparently February 22 through April 24, 2000. Senator Baucus' field office in Kalispell, MT made several telephone calls and told me to send it to Carol Browner in Washington, D.C. Tom McConnell, ASI in Denver, called me and told me to send the comments to you.

This process is not about clean water. It is about control of water and people by the federal government in Washington, D.C. It was done by bureaucrats who think they are above the law and have no desire to work with local people and our elected representatives.

I have attempted to read the `87 pages of proposed revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation proposed Rule. Also I have tried to digest the 64 pages of Revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program and Federal Antidegradation Policy in Support of Revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation. Also I have looked at the 90 pages of the Clean Water Action Plan dated Jan. 14, 1998.

The development of these plans has violated many federal laws (nothing new with this administration in Washington, D.C.). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has many violations. Also violated is the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (ICA). Also violated is the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFI). The Unfunded Mandates Act (UMA) was violated. Never mind the various governments impacted, 450,000 farmers and ranchers are also individually impacted to the tune of $50,000.00 to more than $100,000.00 as determined by the Farm Bureau. I personally will not get a permit from the federal government to raise livestock on

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private land. It violates the US Constitution under the 5th Amendment on takings and very possibly also the 10th Amendment on rights reserved to the states and people.

I am greatly in favor of clean water and desirable creeks, rivers, lakes and wetlands in all states. I am active in a watershed group on a Montana river. FREEDOM IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I salute the state of Wyoming and others for taking you to court for this terrible plan. We much prefer to solve these problems ourselves without any involvement of the federal government on private and state water resources. The federal bureaucracy is completely out of control.

I note that this plan closes USFS roads and doesn't give valid reasons. Our USFS lands and forests in particular have been miss-managed for nearly a century by the US government. Originally National Forests were set up to provide a lasting supply of wood and water. The dense growth of small trees on our Montana forests, poor logging practices and currently little logging, poor fire management polices and destruction of riparian areas and beavers have greatly reduced the quality and quantity of our river water supplies.

This plan is based on poor science, minimal collection of accurate data and a lot of subjective decisions. Bureaucrats who have never done an honest day of labor on the ground or a river and radical environmental groups such as Earth First and Sierra Club have developed this plan and have used poor data to lie to the American people about our watersheds.

These piles of paper, virtually unreadable, are a camouflaged effort by the federal government to take control of all water, land and people in the US.

Put me on your mailing list for any decisions, plans, public comment etc. associated with the mentioned plans.

Sincerely,

Allen Schallenberger

Allen Schallenberger
c. Gov. Marc Racicot, Senator Conrad Burns, Senator Max Baucus, Representative Rick Hill

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