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April 24, 2000

CAET-USFS
Building 2, Suite 295
550 Amelia Earhart Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Comment on Proposed National Policy for President's Clean Water Action Plan for a watershed approach to Management:

I am opposed to the highly restrictive nature and illegal procedure in the development of this plan. It was developed through top-down administration without adequate input from highly qualified, trained and experienced individuals at the local levels. There was inadequate tailoring to individual needs and situations in the various localities.

1. In light of the relatively insignificant amount of pollution occurring in the mountain streams and lakes as opposed to watersheds throughout the rest of the country I consider the extent of targeting and demands made upon the Northwest excessively demanding and restrictive. As an example, after viewing the presence of old cars, boots, tires, etc. in one of the muddy tributaries of the Potomac only a few miles from the White House and Capitol building, I would think that more of the attention should be directed at the many waterways of America that are so obviously and extremely polluted. This as opposed to attacking the mountain streams and lakes of the Northwest from which we can and do safely draw drinking water.

2. It has also become obvious that water related and other restrictions are primarily for the purpose of destroying the economy and livelihoods of local citizens. Entire industries are being destroyed by rules and regulations, not only related to water, but also to the land. As you well know these in combination with the endangered species act are severely reducing and eventually will eliminate the timber, agriculture, mining and grazing industries as well as all the support businesses. In essence, the custom and culture of the people of this entire region has failed to be addressed in the interests of the population. Is this the main objective? It is hard to believe that it is truly "water quality" per se that is the main objective.

3. Action and implementation have already been flagrantly under way preceding established legal and legitimate procedures. These would incorporate environmental assessment, true and authentic science, well publicized public information meetings, review of public input and comments with these thoughts and recommendations respectfully incorporated into the final plan. The public is left with the disquieting awareness that government is proceeding without regard for or compliance with due process of law.

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4. The People's Representative form of Government is being ignored undermining the control of Congress and adherence to the Constitution. Through unauthorized grabbing of the control of **OUR water and lands** the people are in danger of subjugation by the government which is supposed to be operating to serve **the interests of the People.** We find the federal government consistently and continually over-riding states rights and authority . . . in essence ignoring the will and authority of the people.

I request the following measures be taken:

1. This current plan be terminated complete with its present state of unauthorized active implementation.

2. Moneys and efforts on behalf of water quality be redirected though a comparative analysis of need on an individual and local basis complete with corrective action plans to be formulated on a priority basis built upon severity of conditions, level of contamination and the degree to which each case endangers the environment and quality of life.

3. "Stop gap" measures be developed on an individual and regional basis with the input of local citizens and local technically trained people. Guidelines for this program to be developed at a national level in the interests of the environment and the citizens of the United States and approved by Congress. Costs of this program should be related to the level of anticipated and projected benefits as determined locally. State governments should be in charge of the planning, implementation and results measurement abiding by the goals, objectives and extent of any necessary penalties as approved by Congress.

I submit these comments for your sincere review and consideration.

Respectfully,

Clarice Ryan
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Bigfork, MT 59911

cc: Senator Conrad Burns, MT
Senator Max Baucus, M
U.S. Representative Rick Hill, MT
USFS Chief, Mike Dombeck
Flathead County Commissioners

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