State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
George E. Meyer, Secretary

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TELEFAX COVER SHEET

TO: USDA FOREST SERVICE - SALT LAKE CITY UT

2 PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

(801) 517-1021 fax

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FROM: DALE GASSER, Division of Forestry

(608) 266-8576 fax

(608) 266-1667

DATE: May 23, 2000

SUBJECT:

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May 23, 2000

USDA-Forest Service
Contents Analysis Enterprise Team, Attn: UFP
Building 2, Suite 295
5500 Amelia Earhart Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Subject: Comments on Proposed Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management on Federal Lands

Dear Sir or Madam:

My staff has reviewed the "Proposed Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring A Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management" which was published in the Federal Register on February 22, 2000. We are pleased that your agency is taking steps to ensure that your federal lands and resources are managed to prevent and reduce water pollution. We were disappointed, though, with the four meetings your agency hosted across the nation in March, as these meetings did not provide an opportunity for states to provide comments on your proposed policy.

The proposed Unified Federal Policy sets forth a number of desirable goals and guidelines, many of which are similar to those we have been using in Wisconsin. However, the proposed policy does not provide significant details on how these activities will be carried out and therein lies our concern.

Listed below are a few of the questions your proposed policy raises but does not answer:

- How will Federal agencies identify priority watersheds and what if these watersheds are not consistent with State-designated priority watersheds?
- Will Federal agencies provide cost-sharing to non-federal landowners in Federal Priority Watersheds?
- Will Federal agencies provide assistance or funding for watershed-specific water quality research?
- Who will establish the monitoring strategies and performance goals for watersheds in Wisconsin?

We support the objectives your agency has identified in this proposed policy and we look forward to working with you on the details as you start to implement this new policy on federal lands in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

George E. Meyer
Secretary

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