



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rocky
Mountain
Region

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File Code: 2580/5100

Date: JAN - 7 2004

Dan Olson, Administrator
State of Wyoming
Department of Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building, 4-W
Cheyenne, WY 82002



Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter serves as the USDA Forest Service response to the proposed revisions to Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, Chapter 10, Section 4, Smoke Management. This response has been coordinated between the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain Regions and represents a single agency opinion.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of the proposed regulation and the comprehensive outreach employed to include all users of fire. The coordination with our employees and other stakeholders, during the development phase, has allowed for a diversity of knowledge and experience, which is evident in the proposed regulation.

As written, the proposed regulation adequately protects human health and visibility in our Class I areas while supporting the use of fire. Our land management goals strive for a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources. The Regional Haze Rule recognizes this and allows some flexibility for federal land managers to accomplish their mandated missions while protecting human health and the environment. As a result, our position represents a balance between Class I area visibility protection, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems to a more natural and sustainable state and protecting fire endangered communities.

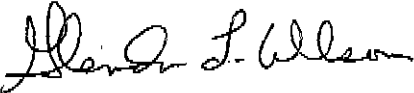
Overall, Wyoming's current proposed regulation appears to be applied in an equitable manner among all users as required by the Clean Air Act 118, 42 U.S.C § 9618 and the Regional Haze Rule, and it appears simple to implement. Since the USDA Forest Service recognizes that the proposed regulation is a reasonable compromise, we offer no further suggestions for revision. However, since this is a new process, we do fully expect some minor revisions will be needed as the State and users gain experience with the regulation and the application of it. We look forward to participating with the State in the annual review and any revisions to the regulation that may be needed.

We understand that other interested parties have yet to submit official comments on the proposed regulation. If further revisions are made to the proposed regulation after the hearing before the Air Quality Advisory Board, we would appreciate timely notice of same. We



would also like to reserve the right to submit additional comments for consideration before it is heard and approved by the Environmental Quality Council, tentatively scheduled for March 2004. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brian Bischof at 303-275-5752 or bbischof@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



for RICK D. CABLES
Regional Forester

cc: Mark Boche, Lindon Wiebe, Brian Bischof