



Lewis & Clark C O U N T Y



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Andy Hunthausen

Michael A. Murray

Susan Good Geise

City County Building 316 North Park Helena, Montana 59623 406.447.8304 Fax: 406.447.8370

Neil Kornze
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street N.W., Room. 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: the Bureau of Land Management's Proposed Resource Management Planning Rules, 81 Fed. Reg. 8674 (February 25, 2016)

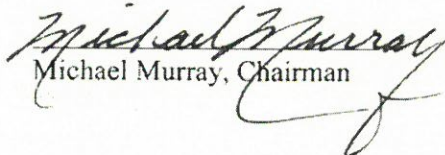
Dear Director Kornze:

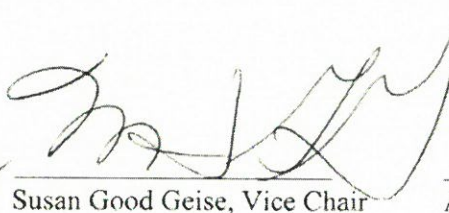
The Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners offer this letter of support for provisions of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Proposed Resource Management Planning Rules, 81 Fed. Reg. 8674 (Feb. 25, 2016) (the Proposed Rules). We appreciate the effort to improve opportunities for public involvement earlier in the planning processes, including the chance to review preliminary resource management alternatives and preliminary rationales for those alternatives.

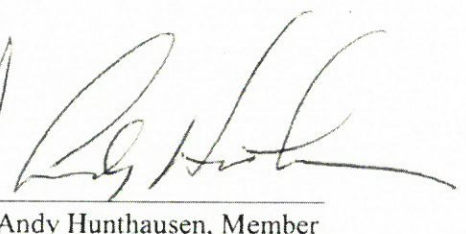
We value our relationship with our federal partners, and our constituents are impacted greatly by actions taken by your agency. Increasing access to the planning process and targeting your efforts towards greater public involvement enhances the relationship between the people and their government, and we support your initiative.

Additionally, we note that the Proposed Rules also expand opportunities for states and local governments to have meaningful involvement in the development of BLM's land use decisions. The Proposed Rules continue to provide for coordination with state and local representatives in order to ensure, to the extent available under federal law, that RMPs are consistent with state and local land use plans, as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Sincerely,


 Michael Murray, Chairman


 Susan Good Geise, Vice Chair


 Andy Hunthausen, Member