

Sample Letter Requesting Opportunity to Participate in BLM Or Forest Service Land Use Planning

SAMPLE LETTER TRANSMITTING PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

SEND VIA CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management
Address

Re: Submission of _____ County Preferred Alternative:

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of (*Name of county*), the purpose of this letter is to submit to you a preferred alternative that should be considered as part of the environmental impact statement ("EIS") (or environmental assessment ("EA")) currently being prepared as part of the Forest Service (or Bureau of Land Management ("BLM")) land use planning process. According to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"):

b. [Federal] agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between NEPA and State and local requirements, unless the agencies are specifically barred from doing so by some other law ... such cooperation shall to the fullest extent possible include:

1. Joint planning processes;
2. Joint environmental research and studies;
3. Joint public hearings ... ; and
4. Joint environmental assessments.

C. [Federal] agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between NEPA and comparable State and local requirements, unless the agencies are specifically barred from doing so by some other law. ... such cooperation shall to the fullest extent possible include joint environmental impact statements. In such cases one or more Federal agencies and one or more State or local agencies shall be ' joint lead agencies. Where State laws or local ordinances have environmental impact statement requirements in addition to but not in conflict with those in NEPA, Federal agencies shall cooperate in fulfilling those requirements as well as those federal law so that one document will comply with all applicable laws.

d. To better integrate environmental impact statements into State or local planning processes, [environmental impact] statements shall discuss any inconsistency of a proposed action with any approved State or local plan and law (whether or not federally sanctioned). Where inconsistencies exist, the statement should describe the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law.

40 C.F.R. § I 506.2(b)(c)(d). (Emphasis added).

In order to make the fullest use of these regulations, _____ County has now prepared a preferred grazing alternative. This alternative will protect the environment within the county as well as the tax base, custom, culture and community stability. As stated above, the federal regulations require that this preferred alternative be included in the Forest Service (or BLM) land use planning process, and if there are inconsistencies between the Forest Service (or DLM) alternative and the local government alternative, the Forest Service (or BLM) EIS must describe the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposed action with the local plan. Id.

_____ County appreciates the opportunity to participate with the Forest Service (and BLM) in its land use planning process and looks forward to working with you. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely:

