

Custer Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT. 59771

Subject: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement Document

Document Length

I am a retired employee of the U.S. Forest Service, Region One, Engineering, now engaged in a lifelong passion, recreational flying, and I function, now, as a MT. State Liaison for the Recreational Aviation Foundation. You have seen this sentence before.

I have read and evaluated the DEIS and I am not sure what audience this document was prepared for. Professional forest employees do not need the extreme detail present in this document. It appears it is more oriented to the public participants in this process and reads more like a master's thesis than a document meant to provide environmental guidance in the plan decision process. The document is everything CFR 40 Ch. 5, 1502.15 says a statement should not be: "*Agencies shall avoid useless bulk in statements and shall concentrate effort and attention on important issues. Verbose descriptions of the affected environment are themselves no measure of the adequacy of an environmental impact statement*". It is essentially a 1356-page document, DEIS (933 pages) + Appendix (423 pages) that provides very weak discussion of the environmental issues that will face the managers over the next 15 to 25 years.

Further, CFR Title 40 → Chapter V → Part **1502.7** **Page limits**.

The text of final environmental impact statements (e.g., paragraphs (d) through (g) of §1502.10) shall normally be less than 150 pages and for proposals of unusual scope or complexity shall normally be less than 300 pages.

Chapter V is the guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality and could be used as a guide for bringing this document into the CFR guidance stated above and thus create a useful support for making environmental assessments during the future planning process.