

Draft Questions for Proposed HJ 13 Survey

9/10/2015

At its June meeting, the EQC directed staff to work with Rep. White, Chairman Vuckovich, and Vice Chair Bennett on draft questions for a possible survey related to HJ13. Rep. White drafted the first version. Staff examined surveys from the federal Government Accountability Office and the FWP and added more detail in an effort to make it easier for the user to answer questions and for the EQC to get clear answers. That version was emailed to the three legislators July 23. On Aug. 4, staff met with Rep. White in Bozeman, discussed the questions, and made minor changes.

EQC decision points:

- Does the EQC want to conduct a survey in addition to standard public comment on report?
- If yes, what information does EQC want to gather?
 - What questions does EQC want to ask?
 - Who will be surveyed? General public? Select interest groups? Others?
 - How will the survey be distributed? General notification? Invitation only? Specific mailings?
 - What is the form of survey? Online? Paper? Both? Other?
 - How will survey results compiled, presented, and analyzed?

The Environmental Quality Council, an interim committee of the Legislature, is studying issues related to roads on federal land and public access to federal land. Part of the study is the following survey.

1. Name (required field)
2. Describe separately each federal road on federal land that, in the last 35 years, has been closed, blocked or gated, or obliterated. Include as much specific information as possible.
 - a. Name, number, or GPS coordinates of road
 - b. County
 - c. Agency responsible for road;
 - d. Approximate length of road;
 - e. Approximate year road access closed;
 - f. How much, if at all, does the inaccessibility of the road to motor vehicles affect deer or elk hunting in the area?
 - i. None
 - ii. Somewhat
 - iii. Moderately
 - iv. Greatly
 - v. Extremely
3. Describe separately each parcel of federal land surrounded by private land that is not accessible to the public. Please include:
 - a. County where parcel is located
 - b. Approximate size of parcel in acres;
 - c. Legal description of parcel;
 - d. Number of different landowners whose property surrounds the federal parcel;
 - e. How many landowners allow public access?
4. Are you a landowner who does not allow access across your land to federal land? If yes, proceed to 4.a.
 - a. Rate on a scale of none to extremely the extent the following factors play in that decision.
 - i. Concern with vandalism;
 - ii. Desire for privacy;
 - iii. Concern with liability;
 - iv. Noneconomic desire for exclusive personal use of agency-managed lands adjacent to or intermingled with private land;
 - v. Disagreement with the agency over the value of providing a conveyance;
 - vi. Potential lost profits from leasing private fishing or hunting rights on land adjacent to or intermingled with federal land;
 - vii. Potential lost profits from charging access fees to the public;
 - viii. Potential lost profits from outfitter operations;
 - ix. Potential lost profits from operation of dude ranches;
 - x. Other reasons

5. Are you a hunter who does not seek permission from a private landowner to cross private property to access federal land? If yes, proceed to 5.a.
 - a. Why do you not seek landowner permission to access federal land across private land? Rate on a scale of none to extremely the extent the following factors play in that decision.
 - i. Prefer not to;
 - ii. It's difficult to obtain access;
 - iii. Did not know who to contact;
 - iv. Didn't have time;
 - v. A belief that access would be denied;
 - vi. Permission denied in the past;
 - vii. Property is posted as no access;
 - viii. It's too difficult to ask for permission;
 - ix. Landowner's want fees for access;
 - x. Other reason

6. Are you a hunter seeks permission from a private landowner to cross private property to access federal land and have been denied? If yes, proceed to 6.a.
 - a. What reason was given by the private landowner for denying access to cross private property to access federal land?
 - i. Concern with vandalism;
 - ii. Desire for privacy;
 - iii. Concern with liability;
 - iv. Noneconomic desire for exclusive personal use of agency-managed lands adjacent to or intermingled with private land;
 - v. Disagreement with the agency over the value of providing a conveyance;
 - vi. Potential lost profits from leasing private fishing or hunting rights on land adjacent to or intermingled with federal land;
 - vii. Potential lost profits from charging access fees to the public;
 - viii. Potential lost profits from outfitter operations;
 - ix. Potential lost profits from operation of dude ranches;
 - x. Other

7. How much, if at all, does the lack of access to the federal parcel affect deer or elk hunting in the area?
 - i. None
 - ii. Somewhat
 - iii. Moderately
 - iv. Greatly
 - v. Extremely