



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Office of Environmental Analysis
Tongue River Railroad Project
Environmental Impact Statement

EI-19061

COMMENT FORM

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link.

Please refer to Docket No. FD 30186 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is December 6, 2012.

CATEGORY 4. Recreation

The BLM usually breaks up its recreational program into two groups: (A) intensive (i.e. developed areas) and (B) extensive (use of public land by casual users, in an "as is" natural state.)

Be sure to address some or all of the typical recreational activities that may occur along the TRR routes: Hunting, Fishing, photography, Collecting, Historical research, driving for pleasure, Bird watching, Floating the River, X-Country Skiing

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

MR Ladd GATES
Box 443
Miles City MT 59301
406 232 2814

Comments may be submitted
today or mailed to:

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Environmental Filing, Docket No.
FD 30186
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



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Category 14. Aesthetics

Point 1 - I suggest you change the wording of element(a) to state that you will evaluate the Visual Resource impacts of the TRR project. Delete the reference to "studying AREAS identified as being of High Visual Quality" the BLM Historically only rates Wilderness AREAS AS BEING of High VRM Quality. Since there is no wilderness along the Route Choices it would be wrong NOT to evaluate the "good" and "Above Average" landscape that does exist along All the Route Choices.

Point 2 - use the VRM MANUAL for your evaluation.

OVER

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

LADD GATES

BOX 443

MILES CITY MT 59301

406 232 2814

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Point 3 -

I suggest you have a landscape Arch on staff to actually perform this assignment. Individuals with this type of Academic training understand the following URM elements: Line, Form, Contrast, diversity, Seasonality, Sun Angle, Vegetative diversity, Focal Angles, View Sheds, Visual depth of Field (Foreground, midrange, background) and how it affect landscape adjustment, back aspect of impacts, to name a few. This project is Running Along A Very scenic Corridor and the "impacts" require proper evaluation

A. Costa