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March 1, 2000 I would like to comment on the lastest Clean Water Action Plan dealing with the Watershed Approach. I would like to start by applauding the agencies for this type of approach. It is far better to look at the big picture vs. a piece-meal approach to resolving problems and working on projects. The overall plan is very good with looking at watersheds, prioritizing resources, and assessing the actual conditions. However I am concerned that this effort does not actually compliemnt the local watershed efforts, specifically: 1. When a federal agency is working in a particular area/watershed on only federal lands and then call it a watershed effort is inappropriate. This is only a project area not an actual watershed approach. In all projects where the federal agencies will be working on specific issues and only on federal lands they should look first if there is a local watershed effort and combine the agenies needs with the local needs where possible. But no matter what approach is taken it should not be called a watershed project when it only addresses public lands - that is very confusing to local individuals. 2. This effor discusses the need to prioritize resources which is great however, there should be some funds left over for other projects/watersheds. It is disheartening to see the majority of the funds year-after-year go towards projects with no end in site such as salmon recovery. Now I am not saying we should abanden these efforts, I am just suggesting that more funds be saved for other good projects around the nation. 3. Although this effort talks about working closely with the state, tribes, local government and stakeholders it should put ephasis on local watershed efforts where possible. This should be a better team effort to resolve problems where the issues and ideas are similar. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on this plan and hope that my suggestions will help you fine-tune this proposal. Sincerely, Alan Rollo 808 52nd St So Great Falls, MT 59405 (406) 727-4437