



Clearwater Resource Council

PO Box 1471 • Seeley Lake, MT 59868 • (406) 677-0069
www.crcmt.org

April 28, 2010

Ms. Leslie Weldon
Regional Forester
US Forest Service Region One
200 E. Broadway
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Ms. Weldon:

The Clearwater Resource Council (CRC) wishes to express its strong support for the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative group's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal submitted to your office for consideration. CRC has participated in the development of this proposal, and we know that it is the result of an exemplary collaborative effort rooted in sound science and built upon a long, productive history of effective collaboration throughout Montana's Blackfoot, Clearwater, and Swan valleys.

CRC is a collaborative membership organization in Seeley Lake whose mission is to initiate and coordinate efforts that will enhance, conserve, and protect the natural ecosystems and rural lifestyle of the Clearwater River region for present and future generations. We work actively to link the community with natural resource management throughout the Clearwater Valley and work closely with the Seeley Lake Ranger District. Our diverse membership of 200 community members is committed to ensuring that Seeley Lake continues to grow thoughtfully while maintaining its high quality of life, natural resources, and rural lifestyle.

If selected for funding, the SW Crown CFLRP proposal will ensure that collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration will continue to be a high priority in the Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan valleys. The proposal will conduct fuel mitigation in the areas with high risk to our community, a critical need brought home to all residents by the proximity of the 2007 Jocko Lakes Fire. Stewardship contracting and other tools will allow for forest restoration efforts that will improve and maintain the high quality environment that Seeley Lake depends upon for its recreation, tourism, and quality living environment. CFLRP would further protect and restore clean water, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and treat thousands of acres infested with terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Finally, this proposal would provide much needed jobs to support the local forestry infrastructure upon which much of the local economy depends. It would provide saw logs to area mills including our local Pyramid Mountain Lumber mill and would provide greater assurance of a supply of biomass for proposed future industry.

Thank you very much for giving the SW Crown CFLRP proposal the strongest possible support as it moves forward through the selection process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Haufler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jon Haufler, President

Cc: *The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture*
The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service
Mr. William Timko, Deputy Director of Forest Management Staff