



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,  
Upper Pend d'Oreilles  
and Kootenai Tribes

Secretary Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

June 21, 2010

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to express our strong support for the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal recently nominated to your office by Regional Forester Leslie Weldon. We have reviewed the SW Crown proposal and have discussed it with collaborative participants including Forest Service personnel and we are confident that this proposal is the result of a model collaborative effort rooted in sound science and built upon a long, productive history of effective collaboration throughout the Southwestern Crown.

The Flathead Indian Reservation is home to three tribes, the Bitterroot Salish, Upper Pend d'Oreille, and the Kootenai. "Confederated Salish" refers to both the Salish and Pend d'Oreille tribes. The territories of these three tribes covered all of western Montana and extended into parts of Idaho, British Columbia and Wyoming. The Hellgate Treaty of 1855 established the Flathead Reservation ([www.cskt.org](http://www.cskt.org)). The landscape restoration proposal is well within our ancestral homelands and we continue to have strong ties to that particular landscape.

The CSKT are among ten tribes in the nation originally chosen to participate in the Self Governance Demonstration Project in 1988. Our Demonstration Project was a success and we received full self-governance rights in 1993. Under self-governance, the traditional principles and values that served us in the past are now being applied to all facets of Tribal operations and services. Our vision and mission embodies these principles:

*"To provide environmental stewardship to preserve, perpetuate, protect and enhance natural resources and ecosystems for everyone."*

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

E.T. "Bud" Moran – Chairman  
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Blackfoot, Clearwater, and Swan Valleys. The proposal's emphasis on treating 80% of all high risk acres identified in the area's three Community Wildfire Protection Plans ensures that lives, homes and communities will face a significantly reduced risk from uncharacteristic wildfire. In addition to its emphasis on fuel reduction and wildfire risk reduction, this proposal would protect and restore clean water, improve fish and wildlife habitat and treat tens of thousands of acres of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

The CSKT are very interested in becoming an active member of the collaboration and would expect consideration to perform some of the tasks outlined in the proposal.

Finally, this proposal would provide much needed jobs in the woods where fuel reduction and forest restoration would put people back to work. This proposal would also provide much needed saw logs and biomass to existing and proposed future facilities in the region.

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

Sincerely,  


E.T. "Bud" Moran, Tribal Council Chairman

*Cc: The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service  
Ms. Leslie Weldon, Regional Forester, US Forest Service  
Mr. William Timko, Deputy Director of Forest Management Staff*