



# LAKE COUNTY

106 4th Avenue East

Polson, Montana 59860

April 26, 2010

Leslie Weldon, Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT  
59807-7669

Dear Ms. Weldon:

The Board of Lake County Commissioners are writing to express our strong support for the Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal recently submitted to your office for consideration by the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative. 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.

Lake County has both a countywide Growth Policy and Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These documents include goals and objectives that correlate with the goals identified in the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative CFLRP proposal.

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. The participation by federal, state, and local officials as well as a diverse array of non-profit organizations and private land owners in the development of the proposal will facilitate ongoing collaboration on the fuel reduction and forest restoration efforts envisioned in the proposal.

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. Further, the projects envisioned in the proposal will move terrestrial ecosystems toward a more resilient state, thus allowing natural processes to play a greater role.

Finally, this proposal would provide much needed jobs in the area 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.

Lake County strongly endorses the CFLRP proposal put forth by the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative.

Sincerely,

*The Lake County Board of Commissioners*

Bill Barron  
Member

Paddy Trusler  
Member

Not here to sign

Chuck Whitson  
Chairman

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*