



BCC 2010-107
April 30, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Weldon:

The Missoula County Commissioners enthusiastically support a collaborative project that has been the subject of significant landowner, non-government organizations and Forest Service efforts in the last year. That project, the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), provides an excellent opportunity to address multiple forestry-related issues in the Swan, Clearwater and Blackfoot River drainages.

Our understanding is that this project, founded on science-based ecosystem restoration, will treat areas identified in Missoula County's Seeley and Swan Community Wildfire Protection Plans, as well as those from other surrounding counties. Such an effort will help protect lives, property and natural resources, while concurrently helping our rural economies. In addition, CFLRP's improvements to fisheries, wildlife habitat, weed management and public access will further enhance the health of our communities and the National Forests in western Montana.

As elected officials, we are responsible for helping protect the public's health, safety and welfare in many areas, including land use and land management matters. Through CFLRP, your additional attention to forest management and restoration will significantly complement our work. Consequently, we urge funding of this project and offer what assistance we can provide to help you and the Region develop CFLRP in a manner that meets the laudable goals set forth in the project.

If you have any questions or would like additional support, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Michele Landquist, Chair


Bill Carey, Commissioner


Jean Curtis, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Tom Tidwell, Chief, United States Forest Service
Bill Timko, Deputy Director, Forest Management Staff
Debbie Austin, Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest