

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

April 19, 2010

Dear Ms. Weldon:

Montana Community Development Corporation (MCDC) supports the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal recently submitted to your office for consideration.

MCDC is a \$15 million small business loan fund, and administers \$40 million in federal New Markets Tax Credits in the state of Montana. We are very involved in building the Montana small business economy. We work specifically on diversification in the wood products industry and on biomass energy projects. The Crown of the Continent proposal shows great potential to increase restoration projects that will supply fuel for alternative energy in Montana, while improving forest health in one of Montana's most important landscapes.

MCDC has been involved with many of the organizations and businesses that are part of the Crown collaboration, and we attest to their integrity, effectiveness and commitment to restoration values.

We urge your strong support to move the Crown of the Continent proposal forward in the CFLRA selection process.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Rosalie Sheehy Cates
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