



MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS

MISSOULA REGION



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Dear Ms. Weldon:

I am writing on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) to express my strong support for the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative's Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal recently submitted to your office for consideration. I am 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 Montana's Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan Valleys.

The mission of the Montana Conservation Corps is to inspire young people through hands conservation service work to be leaders, stewards of the environment, and engaged citizens who improve their communities. The MCC is a state non-profit organization that is affiliated with the AmeriCorps program for national service. MCC seeks to identify specific project work to foster a sense of the importance of community service and public lands conservation. The SW Crown CFLRP would certainly allow our participants an opportunity to experience first hand the importance a landscape approach to forest restoration in Western Montana and in turn achieve our program's goals.

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'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.

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,

Bobby Grillo
Western Wildlands Regional Supervisor

