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April 29, 2010

Ms. Leslie Weldon, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region One
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807-7669

Dear Ms. Weldon:

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. strongly supports the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative's Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal recently submitted to your office for consideration. We have reviewed and participated in the development of the proposal and we are confident that this proposal is a model collaborative effort based on sound science and built upon a long, productive history of public/private partnerships and collaboration throughout Montana's Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan Valleys.

Pyramid is a small family-owned sawmill located at the center of the Southwestern Crown and has proudly provided good paying jobs and value added products for over 60 years. Our survival is directly related to vision, innovation and long-term relationships with loggers, landowners, agencies and especially diverse interests. This proposal will provide more certainty in long term production of goods and services, which benefits a wide variety of interests.

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 of diverse interest collaborators in the development of the proposal will facilitate ongoing successful implementation of the fuel reduction and forest restoration efforts envisioned in the strategy and proposal itself.

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 providing jobs in the woods and much needed sawlogs 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Sanders", written in a cursive style.

Gordon Sanders

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