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Officers of the Corporation:

April 16, 2010

Chair Neil Meyer

Leslie Weldon, Regional Forester

Vice Chair Russ Abolt

Northern Region

Treasurer Steve Ellis

PO Box 7669

President/Secretary
Anne Dahl

Missoula, MT 59807-7669

Dear Ms. Weldon:

Board of Directors:

Russ Abolt

This letter is in support of the Southwestern Crown proposal for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program funding. Swan Ecosystem Center has been working in partnership with the Swan Lake Ranger District since 1997. We have an office and visitor center in the U.S. Forest Service Condon Work Center. Each year we make use of Cost/Share Agreements to achieve mutual goals—ranging from the management of the Mission Mountains Wilderness and Swan Front to BMP road work reducing sedimentation to lakes and streams. As a community-based nonprofit, we provide information to residents about proposed timber sales and stewardship projects, and we encourage citizen participation that gains trust and reduces controversy. We help with outreach during planned burns and natural fires, and we provide landowner assistance to reduce fuels and protect forest resources in the Swan River watershed.

Kvande Anderson

Steve Ellis

Tom Giles

Glen Gray

Rip Grubaugh

Pam Hamilton

Neil Meyer

Bill Moore

Jerye Motschman

Tom Parker

Gene Tingle

Advisory Board:

Lex Blood

Jim Burchfield

Bob Cushman

Chuck Harris

It has been our pleasure to work with District staff on the Southwestern Crown proposal. We have great need in the Swan, Clearwater and Blackfoot watersheds for stewardship and restoration—given the recent acquisition of thousands of heavily impacted acres of former Plum Creek timberlands—and the buildup of forest fuels in high and moderate risk areas around our communities. Our CFLRP proposal would reduce forest fuels, create resilient stands, protect and restore clean water, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and treat thousands of acres infested with noxious weeds and other invasives. The project list provided by the three Districts is impressive. Implementing these projects over ten years would be hugely beneficial to our economy, providing critical jobs for local contractors and Pyramid Mountain Lumber employees.

We are grateful for your serious consideration of our Southwestern Crown proposal.

Many Valued
Volunteers

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne Dahl'.

Anne Dahl, 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