

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

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April 29, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Weldon:

On behalf of the Swan River State Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, I want to express our support for the Southwestern Crown Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Plan (CFLRP) proposal recently submitted to your office for consideration. I have reviewed the proposal and support most of the main premises of the collaborative plan.

The Swan River State Forest is a "working" forest and we highly value efforts to maintain forest jobs, forest management infrastructure, improve watershed health and water quality, and promote a desired future condition on the landscape. We also provide for a quarter-million acres of direct wildland fire protection in the Swan Valley and applaud the Plan's efforts to reduce fire risk in the Wildland Urban Interface and restore forest structure, composition, age class, and patch patterns that were historically on the landscape.

If selected for funding, the 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 percent of all high risk acres identified in the area's 3 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.

Thank you very much for giving the CFLRP proposal the strongest possible support as it moves forward through the selection process.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel J. Roberson in blue ink.

Daniel J. Roberson
Unit Manager
Swan River State Forest
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Swan Lake, MT 59911
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Cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service

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