

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

LOCAL UNION #28

208 East Main Street • Missoula, MT 59802-4418
Phone: (406) 549-8067 • Fax: (406) 728-4582



May 25, 2006

Bruce Ramsey, Supervisor
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725-3572

Dear Supervisor Ramsey:

On behalf of Carpenters Local 28, I write to endorse the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership Agreement that was released last month by a coalition of timber companies and conservation organizations. We believe this Agreement advances several important initiatives, including expanding the suitable timber base, designating appropriate wilderness areas and building a timber program based on stewardship contracting. Taken together, these initiatives will help local businesses employ local labor and even while protecting the fish and wildlife resources of southwestern Montana.

The timber industry and the jobs it supports has been steadily shrinking for the last 25 years. Part of this decline has been caused by smaller volume of timber being offered by national forests, including the Beaverhead-Deerlodge. We think the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Agreement will help develop more stability in timber supply, even while creating additional jobs through its emphasis on stewardship contracting and restoration forestry.

While our membership, other union workers, and non-union hourly workers will all benefit from more stability and stewardship contracting, we are also supportive of the other elements of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge agreement. Union workers use national forests in many different ways. Many of us hunt and fish, some of us by foot, others on horseback and some using ATV's. The Beaverhead Deerlodge Agreement starts to develop a balance between these uses even while protecting and restoring fish and wildlife resources.

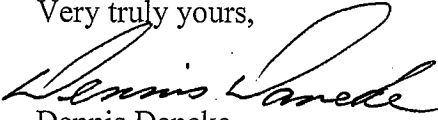
We know that some off-road vehicle enthusiasts are skeptical about the balance the Partnership Agreement establishes. We also understand that the Forest Service has to evaluate the Partnership Agreement and provide an additional opportunity for public review and comment. We are confident that this process will build additional support for



the Partnership Agreement as the public comes to better understand the specifics of the agreement and details are refined.

Please let me know what steps Local 28 and other unions can take to assist in this process.

Very truly yours,


Dennis Daneke

Cc: Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Congressman Dennis Rehberg
Governor Brian Schweitzer
Sherm Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber
Tim Baker, Montana Wilderness Association
Bruce Farling, Montana Trout Unlimited
Tom France, National Wildlife Federation