



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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June 14, 2006

Gail Kimbell  
Regional Forester  
USFS Northern Region  
Federal Building  
200 E. Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Gail:

On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, I write to support the collaborative efforts of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership to develop a forest management plan for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest that will benefit fish and wildlife habitat while also supporting local timber economies.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has long believed that the key to sustaining the great wildlife populations of the West is through cooperative efforts and strong partnerships. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership exemplifies this philosophy, and through its collective hard work, the Partnership has addressed many of the difficult resource issues facing the Forest Service in southwest Montana.

It is our hope that the Forest Service will analyze the Partnership Strategy as a forest plan alternative, and send it out to the public for review and comment. This process will establish a strong foundation for a forest management plan for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest.

Best Regards,

Peter J. Dart  
President & CEO

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