



June 8, 2006

Mr. Bruce Ramsay
Forest Supervisor
Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest
420 Barrett St.
Dillon, Mt. 59725

Dear Mr. Ramsay:

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County wish to reiterate our support of the proposed Forest Plan Revision developed between the timber industry and the conservation groups.

We view the forests in Powell County to be one of our greatest assets and our goal is to protect our assets. However, the forest is a living, sustainable asset and we have learned that leaving it alone will not keep it the same as it was. It will, in fact, give us what we have now, some of the most unhealthy federally managed forest in history. We also realize that wildfire will in time manage our forests for us, but as stated in a previous letter, we do not see that as a viable alternative in the present day.

The Powell County Board agrees that a select -cut sustainable yield harvest, along with fire mitigation thinning in Wildlife Urban Interface areas, and salvage logging or fire-wooding in burned or bug-infested trees, is a means to promote a healthier forest. It also provides material and jobs for our timber industry and a place which is inviting to all forms of recreational activities, livestock and grazing and wildlife habitat.

The Forest Service has the expert personnel who are more than qualified to manage this type of plan if given the opportunity.

We feel that this proposal has a better chance of accomplishing these goals. Therefore, we endorse this proposal and ask that it would be included with the other alternatives for consideration and discussion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail Jones, Chairman

Rem Mannix, Vice-Chairman

Dwight O'Hara, Member
Powell County Board of Commissioners

REM/kmr