

Seeley Lake Rural Fire District



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October 8, 2008

Montana Congressional Delegation
Sen. Max Baucus
Sen. Jon Tester
Rep. Denny Rehberg

Dear Sirs,

The Seeley Lake Rural Fire Department wishes to express its support for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project proposed by a coalition of Montana conservation, timber, small business, and outdoor groups. We encourage you to pass legislation enacting this well-balanced pilot plan in the Seeley Lake Ranger District.

This project proposes funding forest restoration and stewardship projects that will result in restored watershed, enhanced wildlife habitat, and working forests while concurrently providing solid-paying jobs for local residents. The proposal does this in part by including a biomass plant in Seeley Lake that will provide an outlet for local forest products well beyond those provided by the project.

While the benefits mentioned above are significant and long-lasting, the project also designates wilderness tracts to be included in the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains wilderness areas for the use of current and future residents and visitors to Montana.

The Fire Department has reviewed and discussed the various components of the proposal. We believe this project will significantly improve the safety of communities and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the Seeley Lake Ranger District by mitigating fuels in the forest and by making use of small wood.

Thank you for your consideration of this important pilot project and the potential legislation that would implement it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Maradeo'.

Frank Maradeo
Fire Chief
Seeley Lake Rural Fire Department