

BCC 2007-094
April 5, 2007PHONE: (406) 258-4877
FAX: (406) 721-4043

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Senate Dirksen Building, Room B40E
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

The Missoula County Commissioners wish to express our support for the Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Pilot Project proposed by a coalition of Montana conservation, timber, small business and outdoor groups. We encourage you to co-sponsor 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 watersheds, 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 for the use of current and future residents and visitors to Montana.

We believe that this balance of wildland, working forests, recreational opportunities, restored watersheds and economic enhancement should be both embraced and replicated in other areas of the state where such interests coincide.

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 or our Rural Initiatives staff at your convenience.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara Evans, Chairman

Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

Bill Carey, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Pat O'Herren
Bob Ekey
Dale Harris

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The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
House of Representatives
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rehberg:

The Missoula County Commissioners wish to express our support for the Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Pilot Project proposed by a coalition of Montana conservation, timber, small business and outdoor groups. We encourage you to co-sponsor legislation enacting this well-balanced pilot plan in the Seeley Lake Ranger District.

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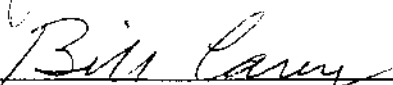
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The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

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