



409 Missouri Avenue  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

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A Century of Service

April 18, 2007

Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Work Group  
c/o Tina Bernd-Cohen  
729 Power Street  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Work Group and the Montana Congressional Delegation:


We support the Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Pilot Project and ask the Montana Congressional Delegation to sponsor and enact legislation and appropriations to implement key pieces of the proposal including wilderness boundary expansion, funding for a co-generation facility and for restoration and stewardship projects, and formal authorization for USFS to serve on the Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors.

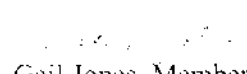
Our local economy depends on active timber harvesting and management combined with an increasing recreation sector and that these activities can be mutually beneficial for fuels reduction, stewardship, and tourism. We feel strongly that this landscape-wide project involving many partners and addressing both timber industry and natural resource conservation is a formula for success and folks in the Blackfoot through this pilot project can lead the nation as they did with the very successful Clearwater Stewardship Contracting demonstration project. We urge the Montana Congressional Delegation to work together to enact the Blackfoot Landscape Stewardship Pilot Project legislative package.

Sincerely,

POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Ralph E. Mannix, Chair

  
Dwight O'Hara, Vice-chair

  
Gail Jones, Member

