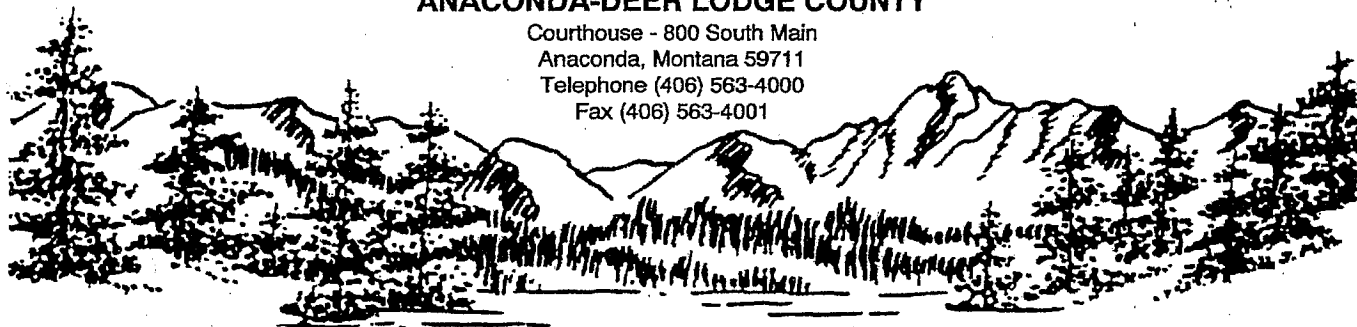


ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

Courthouse - 800 South Main
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Telephone (406) 563-4000
Fax (406) 563-4001



June 30, 2006

Friday, June 30, 2006

Gail Kimbell, Regional Forester
Northern Region – USFS
200 E. Broadway
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Ms. Kimbell:

As you are aware, a significant portion of the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest is contained within Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. This proximity allows the residents of the county to enjoy vast benefits of this wonderful and productive forest. The forest helps to support a broad array of important economic and recreational uses. These uses, more often than not, seem to collide in the course of determining policy and management decisions on our national forests.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has noted with great interest the collaboration of several statewide environmental organizations and timber companies. The resultant collaboration—a proposed management plan for the Beaverhead/Deer Lodge National Forest—may be worthy of consideration.

The Coalition group made a presentation to ADLC Commissioners on their plan in May. The Commission has invited the Forest Service to make a presentation and answer questions at a special Commission meeting on July 10, 2006. The Coalition group is also invited to participate in the meeting. The Commissioners and I look forward to learning more about the specifics of each plan under consideration and would like to wait until the conclusion of the meeting to formulate our comments about these issues. At this time, we cannot speak to the specifics of either proposal, but feel that on-going discussions are critical to the future of the forest.

Please consider this letter as support for continuing the public dialogue on both forest management proposals.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Guay
Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Gail Kimbell

June 30, 2006

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c: Governor Brian Schweitzer
U.S. Senator Max Baucus
U.S. Senator Conrad Burns
U.S. Representative Dennis Rehberg
Senator Jessie Laslovich
Representative Cindy Hiner
Representative Dan Villa
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commissioners
Bruce Ramsay, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Sherm Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber Company
Jim Tracy, Anaconda Leader
Vera Haffey, Montana Standard