



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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June 14, 2006

Gail Kimbell
Regional Forester
USFS Northern Region
Federal Building
200 E. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Gail:

On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, I write to support the collaborative efforts of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership to develop a forest management plan for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest that will benefit fish and wildlife habitat while also supporting local timber economies.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has long believed that the key to sustaining the great wildlife populations of the West is through cooperative efforts and strong partnerships. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership exemplifies this philosophy, and through its collective hard work, the Partnership has addressed many of the difficult resource issues facing the Forest Service in southwest Montana.

It is our hope that the Forest Service will analyze the Partnership Strategy as a forest plan alternative, and send it out to the public for review and comment. This process will establish a strong foundation for a forest management plan for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest.

Best Regards,

Peter J. Dart
President & CEO

Cc: Dale Bosworth
Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Congressman Dennis Rehberg
Sherm Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber
Tim Baker, Montana Wilderness Association
Bruce Farling, Montana Trout Unlimited
Tom France, National Wildlife Federation