

Dear Editor:

I appreciate your comments on the proposed Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership (*reference specific date of letter*). Montana's wild lands have long been a draw for industry, for outdoorsman, for vacationers, and for those looking simply to escape the hustle and bustle of urban life. Unfortunately, protecting and intelligently managing these lands has too frequently become an exercise in partisanship and political posturing.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership has the potential to mark a new dawn for Montana's forest management. By putting aside differences, lumber companies, environmental groups, and outdoorsmen have shown an unprecedented commitment to responsible land preservation. The Partnership's plan encourages not only the conservation of unmotorized wilderness space; it also puts a premium on maintaining critical logging space and promoting healthy forest growth. In short, it does something for all of us. A "made in Montana" solution -- that would certainly be a welcomed gift for Montana's children. (144 words)