

Testimony February 8, 2005

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2/8/05
HB 9

Mr. Chairman for the Record

David Stack
Vice President serving as a volunteer
National Museum of Forest Service History of
Missoula

Grant Request - \$5,677

Museum Cash - \$1,250

In-Kind - \$5,525

I am testifying in support of GRANT # 1130 I am requesting funding for:

A Special Project Grant to: Research, design and build two exhibits that depict the social, political and natural resources changes since 1897 in the use and care of Montana forests and grasslands. One exhibit will be developed in collaboration with the Seeley Lake Historical Museum and the second exhibit will be a traveling exhibit.

The exhibit theme "Forest Conservation History" is particularly appropriate in 2005, the centennial of the Forest Service. There is a century of history between many communities of Montana and the Forest Service. The Forest Service is much more than the National Forest System — It also includes the Research branch and State & Private Forestry. State & Private Forestry is the main avenue ~~the~~ Forest Service assists State Forestry and Fire programs, plus grants to rural communities.

The conservation movement of the 19th century profoundly changed management of public lands and indirectly private lands. Management changed in 1905 from the U.S. Department of Interior's untrained and in some cases corrupt political appointees to professional trained men selected by merit and employed by the U. S. Forest Service. The change was both opposed and supported by the people of Montana. We'll use museum archives and historic objects to illustrate the changes.

Interpretive theme for the Seeley Lake exhibit will be developed collaborative.
Possible exhibit themes include bringing unrestricted grazing under control, providing access to timber and minerals, hiring of local residents to fight wildfires and other tasks, the Civilian Conservation Corps, how changing public values changed Forest Service management, or the pioneering

conservation efforts by Montana residents such as Bob Marshall, Evan W. Kelley, James W. Girard and Elers Koch. The interpretative theme ~~will be developed collaborative with the Seeley Lake community.~~ *will be developed*

The Museum's is a Montana non-profit corporation established in 1988. Our mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the U S Forest Service. We employ a curator. Our primary GOALS are to:

- Build a Museum and National Headquarters in Missoula
- Care for historic archives and objects *Beginning Capital Campaign in 2005*
- Provide conservation education
- Cooperate with local forest history sites across the country.

We believe *Forest Conservation History exhibits* will build awareness of the social, political and natural resource issues in Montana that fueled the conservation movement and resulted in a fundamental change in national policy -from disposal of the public domain to retention for conservation management. We will contrast practices prior to 1891 and the management that followed.

Montana is tied to the natural resources and the vast lands of the state. The health of the forest and grassland of the State are important to all residents. The ^{Montana} connection with the forest and grasslands has changed over time.

Public understanding ^{of} conservation issues are critical to future public support for the care of Montana's forests and grasslands. Understanding the past may provide ideas for solving the some of today's resource issues.