EXHIBIT 12
DATE 2.2.05
HB HJ9

USDA Forest Service
Northern Region
Date: February 1, 2005

Topic: National Forest Wilderness Areas in Montana

There are twelve congressionally designated Wilderness areas totaling 3,374,126 acres on National Forest System lands in Montana for a. They are:

Wilderness	National Forest	Acres	Date Designated
Absaroka-Beartooth	Custer/Gallatin	936,331	March 27, 1978
Anaconda-Pintler	Beaverhead; Deerlodge; Bitterroot	157,874	September 3, 1964
Bob Marshall	Flathead; Lewis & Clark	1,009,035	September 3, 1964
Cabinet Mountains	Kootenai	94,360	September 3, 1964
Gates of the Mountains	Helena	28,600	September 3, 1964
Great Bear	Flathead	286,700	October 28, 1978
Lee Metcalf	Beaverhead; Gallatin	241,297	October 31, 1983
Mission Mountains	Flathead	73,877	January 3, 1975
Rattlesnake	Lolo	33,000	October 19, 1980
Scapegoat	Helena	239,936	August 20, 1972
Selway Bitterroot[1]	Bitterroot	241,676	September 3, 1964
Welcome Creek	Lolo	28,440	February 24, 1978

[1] additional 1,096,005 acres in Idaho

In accordance with federal law, direction for management of wilderness areas is provided by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans. These Forest Plans established standards that provide direction on water and air quality, and management of wildlife, fisheries and recreation use. Resource conditions are monitored regularly (typically every five years) and actions taken are if conditions deteriorate beyond an acceptable level. For instance, every Forest in Montana monitors for noxious weed infestations and most have direction to eradicate new infestations by hand pulling or spraying. All Montana National Forests are either revising their Forest Plans or will be within the next few years. Working with the public, the forests will revisit current direction on management of Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas and revise direction where needed. Two key issues that will be addressed are fire and invasive species. Where necessary, forests will consider the use of prescribed fire to reduce unnatural fuel buildup and to prevent fires from escaping wilderness boundaries.

Every National Forest in Montana employs personnel dedicated to Wilderness management. This workforce, consisting of permanent and seasonal employees and volunteers, is critical to managing our Wilderness areas. Montana citizens volunteer thousands of hours annually completing inventory, monitoring, maintaining trails and campsites, and restoring heavily impacted areas.

Montana Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas provide important wildlife habitat and contain many strongholds for Montana's native fisheries. They also provide abundant and diverse opportunities for recreational users, who come from all parts of the United States. Approximately 400 outfitters and guides provide opportunities to people who would not otherwise be able to enjoy Montana's wildlands and rivers.

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