



Written Testimony 03/12/07
Joint Senate and House Natural Resource Committee
Helena, Montana

Dear Illustrious Colleagues and Members of the Senate and House:

First, I apologize for not being present with you today as the other members of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership share with you our vision. I hope that through their efforts you will have a greater understanding of what we are trying to accomplish for all Montana.

Now, as you well know from your experiences daily, that not all people agree on all things. Hopefully we can gain your support in our endeavors. It is important that you know that the purpose of this collaborative effort is to bring together a diverse group of many Montanans working together to break through the gridlock that has for so many years driven policy on our national forests, thus contributing to the often-times stalemate and stagnation of our U.S. forest management. Just looking around this state we can all see some of the results of inactive (ineffective?) forest management. We see dead and dying trees on the increase, fires increasing in size, intensity and number, our timber manufacturing infrastructure continuing to diminish from lack of available timber to supply their needs, our fishery watersheds, municipal watersheds and wildlife habitats being threatened by lack of much needed restoration that isn't being done for lack of adequate funding, and a final resolve to the wilderness issues that have plagued this state for many years, the need to protect those areas that are pristine wild lands for all to enjoy that *should be* protected.

Our partnership plan is to accomplish these things on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest by becoming involved in the beginning on projects designed to accomplish our goals, by using tools already available to us through stewardship contracting on a large landscape basis, trading goods for services to accomplish multiple objectives.

Well, I could go on forever, as some of you well know, but hopefully you have gotten a brief glimpse of what we are doing with the joint efforts of the partnership. I thank you for your time. I know how very busy you are. I do truly have an appreciation for all that you do on our behalf as Montana citizens and wish you the best in the huge task you still have in front of you.

Sincerely,


Sherm Anderson