Member Lincoln Co. Natural Resource Council
Third generation Homesteader in MT
20 yr resident of Tobacco Valley for family

FEB. 16 2009
GREGG JOHNSON
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SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 16
DATE Feb. 16, 2009
BILL NO. SJ22

DEAR SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

I SUPPORT THE GALTON STUDY RESOLUTION.

THE AREA IS A FANTASTIC RECREATIONAL AREA AS WELL AS ABUNDANT IN NATURAL RESOURCES. IT IS HEAVILY USED BY RECREATIONALIST FROM THIS AREA AS WELL AS FROM THE FLATHEAD COUNTY. DISPITE ALL OF THIS ACTIVITY THE GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION HAS GROWN ANYWAY.

IN PAST ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE AREA WAS VERY GOOD. IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THIS ACCESS HAS DECLINED THROUGH MISMANAGEMENT (IN SOME CASES) BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, OF ROADS THAT HAVE BECOME OVERGROWN AND NON ACCESSABLE.

THE NON MANAGEMENT OF THE WOOD RESOURCES HAS RESULTED IN TONS OF DEAD-FALLS AND FIRE FUELS BUILDUP THROUGHOUT THE STUDY AREA. WITH MANY ROADS CLOSED WITH GATES, HUMPS, DITCHES AND OVERGROWTH. IF A MAJOR FIRE BROKE OUT THE EFFECTS WOULD BE DEVISTATING.

WE NEED COMPLETE ACCESS TO THIS AREA FOR RECREATION, FOREST, FIRE AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT. IT NEEDS TO BE MANAGED AND USED PROPERLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE REGION.

THANK YOU GREGG JOHNSON