December 7, 2006

BAUCUS WORKING TO PROTECT WHITMORE RAVINE FROM EROSION
Senator Requests DoD To See Damage First Hand, Develop A Buffer Zone

(Washington D.C.) – Montana Senator Max Baucus today requested that the Department of Defense Installations and Environment division send a representative to Great Falls, Montana, to see first hand the erosion of Whitmore Ravine so a buffer zone can be developed to prevent further damage.

Baucus said that for years every time it rains there is heavy runoff from Malmstrom Air Force Base that has been eroding the Whitmore Ravine and depositing sediment in the Missouri River.

Baucus today sent a letter to Philip W. Grone, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and Environment urging he dispatch a representative from the department to visit Great Falls so a plan can be put into action to prevent any further damage from occurring.

Baucus said that he'll continue to work together with officials at Malmstrom and at the DoD to ensure situation is resolved.

Please find letter to Mr. Grone attached.

December 7, 2006

Mr. Philip W. Grone
Deputy UnderSecretary of Defense
Installations and Environment
3400 Defense Pentagon Room 3C553
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Dear Mr. Grone:

I am writing to request your personal attention in facilitating a feasible solution to the severe erosion of Whitmore Ravine. For years, heavy runoff from Malmstrom Air Force Base has been eroding the ravine and threatening our precious Missouri River. During storms, thousands of gallons of water have been washing into the ravine. This builds up sediment in the river and puts our environment in grave danger. The time to act is now.