



BCC 2006-128  
May 17, 2006

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The Honorable Brian Schweitzer  
Governor of Montana  
Montana State Capitol Bldg.  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

As you may be aware, the Lolo National Forest has embarked upon an ambitious plan to restore forestlands and fish habitat in the upper Lolo Creek watershed. The Upper Lolo plan calls for replacing some culverts, removing others, obliterating some old logging roads and bringing other roads up to acceptable conditions. Implementation of this plan will help resolve water quality issues made clear in the Montana DEQ's 2003 Upper Lolo TMDL (ULTMDL).

The Lolo National Forest is currently challenged in meeting the budgetary costs of the Upper Lolo plan, and so is developing partnerships to help do this important work. In particular, Montana Trout (a Missoula-based nonprofit) garnered \$21,000 this spring to enable the plan to move forward by leveraging limited national forest dollars. However, meeting the estimated \$1.8 million cost of the entire Upper Lolo plan will require the investment of substantially more funds.

The Missoula County Commission supports the implementation of the Upper Lolo plan and recognizes that watershed restoration can improve the environment while creating local jobs and enhancing our economy. Missoula County will certainly benefit from the implementation of the Upper Lolo plan. We urge you to take whatever action you may in helping direct funding towards this worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Bill Carey, Chairman

  
Barbara Evans, Commissioner

  
Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

cc: Maggie Pittman, Missoula District Ranger  
John Zelazny, Montana Trout  
Marnie Criley, Wildlands CPR  
Jake Kreilick, NFPA