

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 2005

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

On behalf of the President, thank you for your letter regarding the management of inventoried roadless lands on National Forests. The President appreciates hearing your views and welcomes your suggestions.

As you know, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are committed to working with the Bush Administration in conserving roadless areas on national forests. The President is dedicated to working closely with the nation's governors to meet the needs of local communities and to maintaining the undeveloped character of the most pristine areas of the National Forest System. Strong state and federal cooperation in the management of roadless areas will foster local involvement and support. State governments are important partners in the stewardship of the nation's land and natural resources.

Again, thank you for your letter. Your input is highly valued, and we appreciate you taking the time to write. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office. With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,


Ruben Barrales
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Brian Schweitzer
Governor
State Capitol
PO Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620-0801

RB:EH