



BCC 2006-003
January 9, 2006

PHONE: (406) 258-4877
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Governor Brian Schweitzer
State Capitol
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

RE: Missoula County Roadless Areas

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

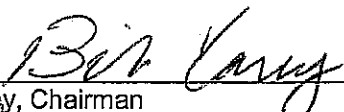
We are writing in response to your request that County Commissioners assess the need for new roads in existing inventoried roadless areas on Forest Service lands in their counties. The Missoula Board of County Commissioners asked the public for proposals for new roads in roadless areas within the portions of the Lolo National Forest and Flathead National Forest that lie within Missoula County. Proposals were due to the Commissioners by December 1, 2005 and were to include a location map, statement of need, analysis of environmental impacts and estimated construction and maintenance costs. A public hearing on any proposals received was set for December 14, 2005 at the Missoula County Courthouse. Maps of existing roadless areas were posted at the Missoula County Courthouse, the Swan Ecosystem Center in Condon, and on the Missoula County website.

No proposals were received on which to hold a public hearing. However, the Commissioners opened the meeting to public comment on the issue. The public comments from that meeting, as well as written comments received, are on file and available at the County Courthouse. All of the public comment received has also been forwarded to the US Forest Service.

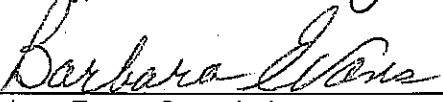
Most of the public comment strongly supported leaving roadless areas roadless. Some of those who testified stated support for leaving the management of roadless areas to the Forest Service. Others, while not proposing new roads, wanted access and maintenance of existing roads to continue.

Missoula County is not forwarding any proposals for new roads in existing roadless areas. Thank you for the opportunity to stay involved in this process.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Bill Carey, Chairman



Barbara Evans, Commissioner



Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

BCC/nh/ppr

cc: Debbie Austin/Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest
Maggie Pittman/Missoula District Ranger, Lolo National Forest
Sharon Sweeney/Public Affairs Officer, Lolo National Forest
Cathy Barbouletos/Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest