



*A new approach to restoring Montana's forests*

---

Montana Forest Restoration Committee  
PO Box 16885  
Missoula, MT 59808  
(406) 541-6054  
[info@montanarestoration.org](mailto:info@montanarestoration.org)  
[www.montanarestoration.org](http://www.montanarestoration.org)

April 22, 2010

Honorable Jon Tester  
724 Hart Office Building  
US Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Max Baucus  
511 Hart Office Building  
US Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROADS AND TRAILS REMEDIATION INITIATIVE**

Dear Senators:

The Montana Forest Restoration Steering Committee is writing to inform you that the Forest Service's Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative (Legacy Roads) is one of many programs used by the Forest Service to restore national forest system lands. When the agency works collaboratively with local communities and interested parties to analyze which roads and trails need to be maintained, constructed, reconstructed or decommissioned, the Legacy Roads Program can be an important tool for maintaining a safe and ecologically sustainable road and trail system.

The Legacy Roads Program was developed to address water quality problems resulting from deteriorating and unmaintained segments of the Forest Service transportation system. Legacy Road and Trail projects help address this problem by providing resources for:

- Road and trail maintenance and improvement;
- Reconstructing bridges;
- Repairing culverts and stream crossings;
- Stabilizing decommissioned roads; and
- Performing stream habitat improvement, watershed improvement and erosion control work associated with road and trail maintenance and decommissioning.

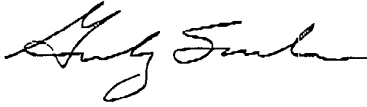
Over the past three years, Legacy Roads brought \$22.6 million to the Northern Region of the Forest Service, which includes national forest system land in North Dakota, Montana and Northern Idaho. These funds support high-wage, high-skill, green jobs in rural communities.

It is the mission of the Montana Forest Restoration Steering Committee to work with local stakeholders and the Forest Service to plan and execute on-the-ground forest restoration work on Montana's National Forest lands through the application of the Montana Forest Restoration Principles. This set of 13 restoration principles was developed by a working group of diverse interests and represents a collective

vision for using scientifically supported approaches to accelerate the recovery of ecological processes and to enhance societal and social well being.<sup>1</sup>

The restoration needs are great on national forest lands all across the west, including Montana. We believe that it is important that the Forest Service be provided with a diversity of restoration tools and authorities, including the Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative.

Sincerely,



**Gordy Sanders**  
Pyramid Mountain Lumber &  
Co-Chair, Montana Forest Restoration  
Committee



**Dale Harris**  
Great Burn Study Group &  
Co-Chair, Montana Forest Restoration  
Committee

---

<sup>1</sup> Restoring Montana's National Forest Lands, Guiding Principles and Recommended Implementation, September 2007, Third Edition. p. 3,4.