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May 12, 2017

Mr. Jim Simpson, Chair
Lake County Conservation District
64352 US-93
Ronan, MT 59864

Dear Mr. Simpson:

It has come to our attention that you have requested comments on the Swan Forest Initiative where you are proposing a change in the management of the Flathead National Forest in Lake County, Montana. On behalf of the membership of the Southwestern Crown Collaborative (SWCC), I wish to inform you that the SWCC opposes this initiative.

The SWCC supports the continuation of management of the Flathead National Forest by the U.S. Forest Service. In our view, the Forest Service possesses the necessary technical and financial capacity to benefit residents of Lake County and all Americans via the sustainable management of our shared national heritage found within the Flathead National Forest.

The SWCC brings together residents, interested citizens, business enterprises, and conservation organizations to consider creative solutions in the management of our National Forests in the Blackfoot, Clearwater, and Swan River valleys. We are an independent volunteer organization open to all who desire to participate, and we would welcome any participation by members of the Lake County Conservation District. We believe our collaborative approach represents a positive opportunity for people to have their interests heard and to advance constructive ideas in the management of our National Forests.

Sincerely,

James Burchfield
Co-chair, SWCC Collaborative

cc Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Governor Steve Bullock