



Beaverhead County Commissioners
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Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington, DC

Congressman Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington, DC

Beaverhead County supports and appreciates the concept of the common sense approach to sustainable forest management addressed in HR 1526.

We believe proactive land management is necessary on every land scape, be it private, state, or federal, for not only the good of the land, but also for the social and economic well-being of the local communities.

From our perspective there are at least three reoccurring themes hindering sustainable forest management. First is of funding to prepare sales. Second is the environmental analysis and review time for management activities. Third is the litigation that stalls or totally stops much of the harvest that badly needs to be done.

The intent of this policy or most federal policies is to be beneficial, please realize there are potential conflicting consequences when implemented at the local level. Some of the most notable concerns for Beaverhead County are:

- ♦ Stewardship contracting
- ♦ What happens if..... Forest Service's inability to get projects ready, etc.
- ♦ Wide spread differences of payments for different proclaimed forests.
- ♦ Other federal land payments – Refuge Revenue Sharing.

The Beaverhead County Commissioners ask for your support of HR 1526 when it comes to the House floor vote. We will contact Congressman Daines to also speak in support of this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Thomas Rice
Chairman

Garth L. Haugland
Commissioner

Michael J. McGinley
Commissioner