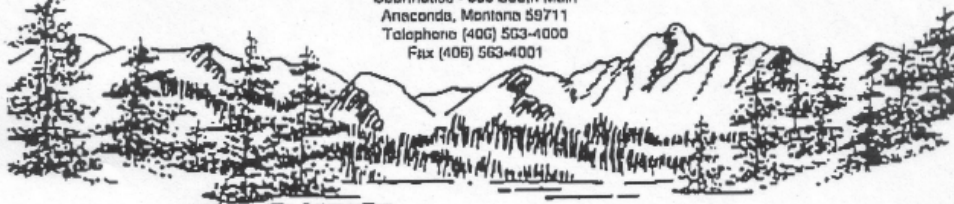


ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

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Anaconda, Montana 59711
Telephone (406) 563-4000
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Governor Brian Schweitzer
Capitol Building
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

December 19, 2005

Dear Governor,

As one of the counties within Montana who have designated road less areas, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (A-DLC) submits the following comments per your request.

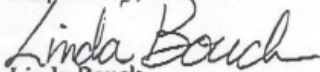
Some advocate the construction of additional roads within current road less areas because of the desire to expand logging operations and other natural resource extraction activities. We in Anaconda have extensive experience with natural resource extraction and especially the aftermath. It is our belief that short term benefits must be weighed against long term operations and maintenance costs and failure to consider those two aspects constitute a failure to represent future generations.

Further, A-DLC fully supports responsible natural resource extraction operations. "Responsible" would constitute minimal ecological damage during the extraction period, full base-line remediation after closure and conscientious long term maintenance of impacted areas.

That is why we are troubled by the state of disrepair in which we find our current back country roads. Some estimates indicate that there is in excess of \$550 million needed repairs on existing roads in Montana. This, to us, does not constitute responsible development.

With that in mind, A-DLC does not wish to see any additional road construction within currently designated road less areas in its boundaries until the federal government or a private developer fully funds the maintenance of currently constructed backcountry roads in the State of Montana.

Respectfully,


Linda Bouck
Interim CEO