



State of Montana  
Society of American Foresters

Mr. Dave Stack, Executive Director  
National Museum of Forest Service History  
P.O. Box 2772  
Missoula, Montana 59806

3-29-10

Dear Dave:

On behalf of the Montana Society of American Foresters, I am pleased to endorse the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH), dedicated to preserving and interpreting the entire history of the U.S. Forest Service, its cooperators and partners. The addition of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula will greatly benefit our state, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for the stewardship of our abundant natural resources in Montana.

When visitors step outside the Center's doors, they will be a short drive from some of the greatest recreational opportunities in our state: Bitterroot, Clearwater and Lolo National Forests; Selway Bitterroot and Welcome Creek Wilderness Areas; the Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Areas; and the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. These federal lands are maintained for the benefit of all Americans, but local governments and communities are uniquely dependent upon and have an intimate knowledge of these landscapes. At the Center, visitors will also gain a greater understanding of the issues that have shaped our local communities, as well as the role of active forest management in the years ahead.

Historical evidence indicates that our forested landscapes in the northern Rockies, and the resources that they provide to surrounding human populations, can change very rapidly. Explosive insect epidemics and catastrophic wildfires in recent years are but two examples. Active forest management is a tool that can moderate these changes and many others. It also provides vital, renewable, carbon neutral resources to our society and does not need to be exclusive of other forest values such as wildlife, clean water, recreation and remote and rustic experiences. The Society of American Foresters is strongly committed to caring for our natural resources while simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs.

Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. It is *the* national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States, with a mission to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of our profession to ensure the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

The Montana Society of American Foresters (MTSAF) represents more than 350 members across the state, including natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEO's, administrators, educators, and students. We are one of the most active and involved units of the SAF, providing important contributions in forest policy and identifying emerging issues in forestry.

We look forward to working with the NMFSA to pursue its vision for national conservation legacy education, historical preservation and remembrance of the significant deeds and people that define the very meaning of conservation.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Davaz, Chair  
Montana Society of American Foresters