

August 24, 2010

Dave Stack
National Museum of Forest Service History
P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, MT 59806

RE: National Conservation Legacy and Education Center

Dear Dave:

From its origins in 2000 to the present day, the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) has helped define conservation policy, especially that related to wildlife, for the U.S. Forest Service.

Therefore, we greatly appreciate that the National Museum of Forest Service History has stepped forward to collect, preserve and interpret the conservation legacy of the Forest Service, its cooperators and partners so that this record of achievement will serve to inspire current and future generations in their stewardship responsibilities.

The AWCP partners listed below fully support the National Museum of Forest Service History's \$4.5 million federal appropriation request to build the *National Conservation Legacy and Education Center* (Center) in Missoula, Montana.

There has never been one central repository where the artifacts and documents of this remarkable conservation record could be collected, preserved and made available for exhibition, study and commemoration. The Center will serve as the national repository, exhibit hall and meeting place to preserve, interpret and celebrate the heritage of the partnership of the Forest Service with the sportsmen's conservation community.

The AWCP a consortium of 47 organizations, representing more than 6 million individual members, work together to safeguard our nation's wildlife resources and the interests of America's sportsmen and women. The partners focus on commonalities in five core areas: habitat conservation, wildlife populations, hunting and trapping, scientific management of wildlife and habitat and sustaining the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

On site, on the road and on-line, the Center will enhance the public's understanding of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and celebrate the role of the AWCP in championing scientific wildlife research, habitat conservation and outdoor recreation.

From the recovery of the American bald eagle, grizzly bears and bull trout, to the conservation of migratory corridors critical to antelope, North American wild sheep, elk

and mule deer to the restoration of forestlands and grasslands benefiting game bird habitat, the AWCP have played a continuing and important role with the Forest Service in conserving the 193 million acres of national forest and grasslands for the benefit of wildlife. Sharing these stories and the lessons learned is the conservation legacy that the AWCP look forward to celebrating at the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Boone and Crockett Club, Campfire Club of America, Conservation Force, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Dallas Safari Club, Isaak Walton League of America, Mule Deer Foundation, Orion, Pheasants Forever, Pope and Young Club, Quail Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Shikar Safari Club, U S Sportsmen's Alliance, Wildlife Management Institute