



File Code: 1950

Date: February 26, 1998

Dana Jensen
The Ecology Center, Inc.
801 Sherwood Street, Suite B
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Dana:

I am writing to respond to your letter of February 9, 1998 in which you requested to be placed on mailing lists to receive all documents pertaining to the management of the Gallatin National Forest. As you know from previous correspondence, it is our policy not to honor blanket requests for all documents and information, as a matter of keeping printing and mailing costs within reason. It is not designed to create a burden for you or other interested groups and individuals. It is our view that sending volumes of documents to a mailing list of those who simply say they want everything, most of which turns out to be of no interest, would be a great waste of time, money and resources.

That being said, it may help if I explain further how we develop mailing lists for specific projects. Information and solicitation of comments (scoping documents) are sent, not only to those who respond to the project listing, but those we believe would be interested in the project based on their participation in similar activities in the past. For example, based on letters we have received from your organization, we automatically send you scoping documents related to livestock grazing, prescribed fire, timber harvest, road development, mining, and any other major development project proposed for the Forest, regardless of whether you had responded to the project listing. What you would not likely receive, unless you specifically requested it, would be information related to minor projects such as trail maintenance, special use permit renewals (e.g. outfitter/guides, summer homes, water lines, phone lines, electronic sites, etc.), repair and maintenance of facilities, and small wildlife and fish projects. In addition, you would not automatically receive environmental assessments/environmental impact statements for activities on which you did not respond to scoping documents or otherwise show interest in. In other words, if we sent you information and asked for comment about a proposed action, but then we did not hear from you, we would assume that you were not interested in participating in that project.

In conclusion, may I suggest that you allow us to use our discretion in determining which project mailing lists to include you in. Other organizations, including several environmental groups, do not routinely respond to the project listing and appear to be satisfied with what they receive.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHRISTIANSEN
Environmental Coordinator

cc: District Rangers

