

February 22, 2005

Bob Dennee
USFS - Gallatin National Forest
32 E. Babcock
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

RE: Request to review and inspect USFS files on the Royal Teton Ranch project

Dear Bob,

Per your instructions I am putting in writing my desire to follow-up on a June 24-2004 FOIA request to review and inspect the agency's records on the Royal Teton Ranch while I am in Bozeman today and tomorrow.

This request to inspect and review is to: 1) fill in the gaps I found in the agency records provided to date on the RTR land deal, 2) review any RTR files I did not review on previous visits, and 3) review the RTR files for any updated information since June 2004. My review is inclusive of the file index for the RTR project record maintained by the USFS.

I understand the USFS wants to review records that I may ask to get a copy of. As I have previously done, for those files I am able to review and inspect, I will leave a post-it note on each record I would like to have copied, and the number of pages involved.

I am hoping to gain access to the RTR records Wednesday Feb 23 from 10am to Noon, and 1pm to 5pm. I may also be available Friday Feb 25 from 1pm to 5pm.

Please understand that I am trying to take the route that requires the least amount of time from the US Forest Service and its employees. Having me inspect the records directly will save the agency and its personnel substantial time and effort.

I am also hoping that the USFS can accommodate my request to review and inspect agency records during normal business hours. If this is not the case, please identify the circumstances and a statutory basis for why the USFS cannot allow public inspection of agency records on the RTR land deal.

Steve Christainson, the Gallatin's FOIA officer, asked that I provide the citation on the public being allowed to inspect

agency records during normal business hours, and I am including this reference for him. Please send him a copy of this email.

Title 7: Agriculture

PART 1-ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Subpart A-Official Records

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301, 552; 7 U.S.C. 3125a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; and 7 CFR 2.28(b)(7)(viii). [65 FR 46336, July 28, 2000]

§ 1.3 Agency implementing regulations.

Each agency of the Department shall promulgate regulations setting forth the following:

(a) The location and hours of operation of the agency office or offices where members of the public may gain access to those materials required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) and §1.4 to be made available for public inspection and copying.

regards,

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cc: Sen. Max Baucus - Bozeman Office