



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Gallatin National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
10 East Babcock  
P.O. Box 130  
Bozeman, MT 59771

File Code: 5400/6270-1

Date: February 28, 2005

Darrell Geist  
PO Box 7941  
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Mr. Geist:

On February 22, 2005, you came into our office, and indicated to Bob Dennee, Lands staff, that you were "...here to inspect" the files for the Royal Teton Ranch (RTR) land conservation project. Bob responded that he was in meetings and not available to assist you that day. You then left our office. That same day, you made a similar request to Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger, to inspect the RTR files at that office. For the record, you provided no advance notice to the Supervisor's office, and you made no arrangements to meet at a mutually agreeable time and location. You then wrote an e-mail memo to Bob Dennee, and requested to inspect the RTR files on February 23, 2005. You cited regulations at 7 CFR 2.28(b)(7)(viii) as the basis for your request.

As Bob Dennee and Steve Christiansen discussed with you today, we believe it is not appropriate for you to come into the office, with little or no advance notice, and expect to review voluminous project files. After consulting with staff in our Region and Washington offices, we advised you that the proper procedure is for you to submit a FOIA request in writing for copies of specific information. If you seek to review project files in person, then you would need to make arrangements with us, well in advance, to do so at a mutually agreeable time and location.

You then asked the Forest Service to provide a response to you in writing. To confirm what our staff told you today, we are offering two choices regarding your latest request. You can either submit a FOIA request for copies of specific information. Or, if you seek to review project files in person, you will need to make proper arrangements to do so at a mutually agreeable time and location. We suggest that mid-March would be a suitable time. This response applies to the requests you made to this office and to the requests you made to the Gardiner District.

Sincerely,

REBECCA HEATH  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Ken Britton, Steve Christiansen, Regional Forester, Attn: FOIA Coordinator

