



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Rocky  
Mountain  
Region

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Golden, CO 80401  
Voice: 303-275-5350  
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File Code: 7730

Date: MAR 21 2012

John Cox  
Director  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
5300 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Mr. Cox,

The Rocky Mountain Region of the USDA Forest Service supports the State of Wyoming application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant for improvement on the Beartooth National Scenic Byway. The Forest Service has been an active member of the Beartooth Highway Steering Committee and a firm proponent of improvement work on this All-American Highway.

The Highway provides access to the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming and the Custer and Gallatin National Forests in Montana and is vital for management of these lands. Many consider the Beartooth All-American Road to be the most scenic gateway to Yellowstone National Park, and is definitely an integral attraction to visitors to the area. This important and scenic park access route draws visitors from across the globe. It links and is essential to the communities of Red Lodge and Cook City, Montana, and Cody, Wyoming. Visitors marvel at the outstanding visual and geologic features along the route.

Previous projects have resulted in key safety improvements. However, additional work is necessary in order to accomplish the remaining safety improvements as outlined in the "Beartooth Highway Funding and Delivery Plan." We fully support improvements that provide for the safety of users and improve the condition of the road, ensuring continued use and enjoyment.

If additional information is needed, please contact Don Rivers, Deputy Director of Engineering, at 303-275-5172 or [drivers@fs.fed.us](mailto:drivers@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

MARIBETH GUSTAFSON  
Deputy Regional Forester, Operations

cc: Gene M Baker, Don Rivers

