



# Northern Region USDA Forest Service

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MISSOULA, MONT. – MAY 27, 2004.** Northern Regional Forester Gail Kimbell announced today that the Montana Community Development Corporation will receive a Wood In Transportation grant for \$135,000 from the Forest Service’s State & Private Forestry Program. As a result of a grant from the USDA Forest Service and the work of numerous partners in the greater Missoula area, two Missoula-area trails will be better able to accommodate visitors.

The funding will assist with the final design and construction of two pedestrian bridges that showcase uses for small diameter roundwood in transportation systems. One 165-foot suspension bridge will be constructed at the Travelers Rest State Park south of Lolo. A second, 120-foot bridge will improve access to the Rattlesnake Recreation Area trail system.

“It’s a pleasure to congratulate the Montana Community Development Corporation and our other partners on their successful endeavor to obtain this grant through our very competitive national Wood In Transportation program,” Kimbell said. “We hope these demonstration bridges encourage others to use small roundwood material in unconventional ways. More importantly, the public will benefit from these functional and beautiful additions to popular trail systems.”

Designed to use locally produced, small diameter trees like those removed during hazardous fuel reduction projects, these modern wood bridges will be constructed as demonstration projects. Construction should begin this fall and be completed in the spring of 2005.

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ATTACHMENT: Artist’s version of Traveler’s Rest pedestrian bridge design. An electronic “png” version is available from Nan Christianson – call 363-7113 or email [nchristianson@fs.fed.us](mailto:nchristianson@fs.fed.us) to accompany news articles.

