

Mr. Jeff Jahnke
State Forester
Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060



Dear Mr. Jahnke:

We are writing on behalf of the Front Range Roundtable to express our support for the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to projects that address the Roundtable's priority treatment areas and incorporate our principles of sound science and collaboration. As you know, the Roundtable is a diverse regional collaborative with participants representing more than 50 different agencies, organizations and interests. We formed in the wake of Colorado's record 2002 fire season with the objective of increasing the scale and pace of high priority forest treatments to protect communities and restore ecosystems on the Front Range.

After a lengthy deliberative process, the Roundtable identified 1.5 million acres across ten Front Range counties that are in need of treatment to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and/or restore healthy ecological conditions. Approximately 400,000 acres meet both of these goals. The identification of these consensus acres was founded on sound ecological science and input from local communities. In 2006, the Roundtable released a report highlighting ten substantive recommendations for policy, funding and economic actions that will facilitate more timely and effective accomplishment of priority forest treatments.

Since releasing our initial recommendations, the members of the Roundtable have worked hard – both individually and collectively – to achieve implementation of both our land management and policy goals. One of our recent initiatives involves a focused effort to help the community of Woodland Park implement their Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative started with local community and Roundtable partners but has since garnered involvement and support from non-traditional agencies and interests. The success of this Initiative demonstrates the power of the Roundtable to leverage our resources, commitment and diverse consensus into meaningful, landscape-scale accomplishment.

We believe that ARRA project proposals that are consistent with the Roundtable's treatment priorities and demonstrate the Roundtable's commitment to sound science and collaboration will be a good public investment because they are likely to be well supported, easier to implement and will contribute to the accomplishment of a broad regional strategy for protecting communities and ecosystems. As you review submissions for ARRA funding, we encourage you to give any such proposals serious and positive consideration.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Front Range Roundtable Executive Team



Glenn Casamassa, Forest Supervisor
Arapahoe & Roosevelt N.F., Pawnee Grassland

/s/ Bob Leaverton

Bob Leaverton, Forest Supervisor
Pike & San Isabel N.F., Cimarron & Comanche Grassland



Paige Lewis, Government Relations
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Ben Pearlman, Commissioner
Boulder County

cc: Mr. Rick Cables
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