



May 10, 2010

Mr. Rick Cables  
Regional Forester  
U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region  
740 Simms St.  
Golden, CO 80401

Re: Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative

Dear Mr. Cables:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative's proposal to the Collaborative Forest Land Restoration Program (CFLRP). The proposed project would facilitate the treatment of 22,000 acres of forests to protect communities, restore watersheds, improve habitats, and create jobs. The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Provide background on the Front Range Roundtable (Roundtable), a multi-organizational stakeholder group on whose behalf we, the Executive Team, are submitting this letter;
2. Express our strong support for the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative's proposal to the Collaborative Forest Land Restoration Program (CFLRP); and
3. Offer the Roundtable's support to the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative in a multiparty monitoring effort should the proposal to the CFLRP be funded.

The Front Range Roundtable ([www.frontrangeroundtable.org](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org)) was founded in 2004 to serve as a focal point for diverse stakeholder input into efforts to reduce wildland fire risks through sustained fuels treatment along the Colorado Front Range. The Roundtable is a collaborative effort involving almost 150 representatives from more than 60 different organizations, including state and federal agencies, local governments, environmental and conservation organizations, the academic and scientific community, industry and user groups, and individuals organized to address forest health concerns and forest product utilization in the ten Colorado Front Range counties.

After a lengthy deliberative process, the Roundtable identified approximately 800,000 acres of forests in need of restoration in the ten-county Colorado Front Range area. (An additional approximately 700,000 acres were identified in need of treatment to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities. Approximately 400,000 acres meet both restoration and forest mitigation 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 recommending ten substantive initiatives for policy, funding, and economic actions to facilitate more timely and effective accomplishment of priority forest treatments.

The proposed project of the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative is based upon the work and recommendations of the Front Range Roundtable. In addition to the 22,000 high-priority acres proposed for treatment in the CFLRP proposal, 165,000 additional acres on US Forest Service and adjacent non-federal lands will also be treated, resulting in long-lasting ecological, social and economic benefit across a 1.5 million-acre landscape covering parts of the Arapaho and Roosevelt and Pike and San Isabel National Forests in Colorado. More than 70 percent of the forests within this landscape exhibit a high to very high degree of ecological departure from historic norms, a condition that increases both their susceptibility to uncharacteristic high intensity wildfire, and their vulnerability to insects and disease outbreaks. The funding request of \$22 million over the next 10 years will be used to leverage \$15 million in local, state and private resources.

The Roundtable strongly supports the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative's proposal to the CFLRP. If the proposal is funded, the Roundtable is ready to offer its support to the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative in a multiparty monitoring effort. The Front Range Roundtable has a standing Science & Monitoring Team poised to serve in this effort, if needed.

Selection of the Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative for the CFLRP will be a wise investment in the restoration of Colorado's forests to avoid the devastating impacts of high-severity wildfires and to encourage ecological, economic and community sustainability. We urge you to support this proposal. The Front Range Roundtable appreciates your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Front Range Roundtable Executive Team



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