

September 3, 2014



Colorado State University
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Dear Forest Action Plan Focus Group Invitee:

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) requests your help with updating our state's Forest Action Plan (FAP).

The issues facing Western forests—wildfire, invasive species, changing ownership patterns and markets, fragmentation, and climate change—affect all lands and all people. Healthy forests filter our air and water, provide jobs and wood products, and are places where our children can experience wildlife and nature. The numerous benefits we enjoy from our forests don't happen by chance, but through careful planning. Having a FAP helps guide the work of forestry professionals and support the goals of communities and family forest owners who manage and conserve their forests with future generations in mind. It also helps us do more with less, as budgets shrink and priorities change.

The Colorado FAP consists of two parts: 1) a Forest Assessment and 2) a Forest Strategy. The FAP focuses on all lands—state, private, tribal and federal—and identifies strategies to target resources efficiently, especially in these tough economic times. It guides how the CSFS works with federal, state and local partners to maintain resilient landscapes and create fire-adapted communities.

The existing Forest Action Plan is available at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/statewide-forest-assessment.html>.

The CSFS seeks your input to help guide revisions to this plan. By attending one of eight regional meetings around Colorado, you can offer feedback on new landscape maps, identified threats to our forested landscapes and strategies to address these threats. At the meetings, you also will receive information on prior successes at mitigating threats to forest health through implementing strategies contained in the current FAP. To improve the plan, we need your help identifying where additional opportunities for success exist.

The schedule, locations and draft agenda for our eight regional meetings are attached. **For the best outcome, we ask participants to carefully review the existing FAP (using the link above) prior to meeting.** In particular, we will be focusing on the *Overarching Strategies* found on pages 8 and 9 of the Forest Strategy document.

Please RSVP by e-mail at CSFS_planning@mail.colostate.edu or call (970) 491-7544 by Sept. 12, 2014, to let us know which meeting you will attend. Lunch will be provided.

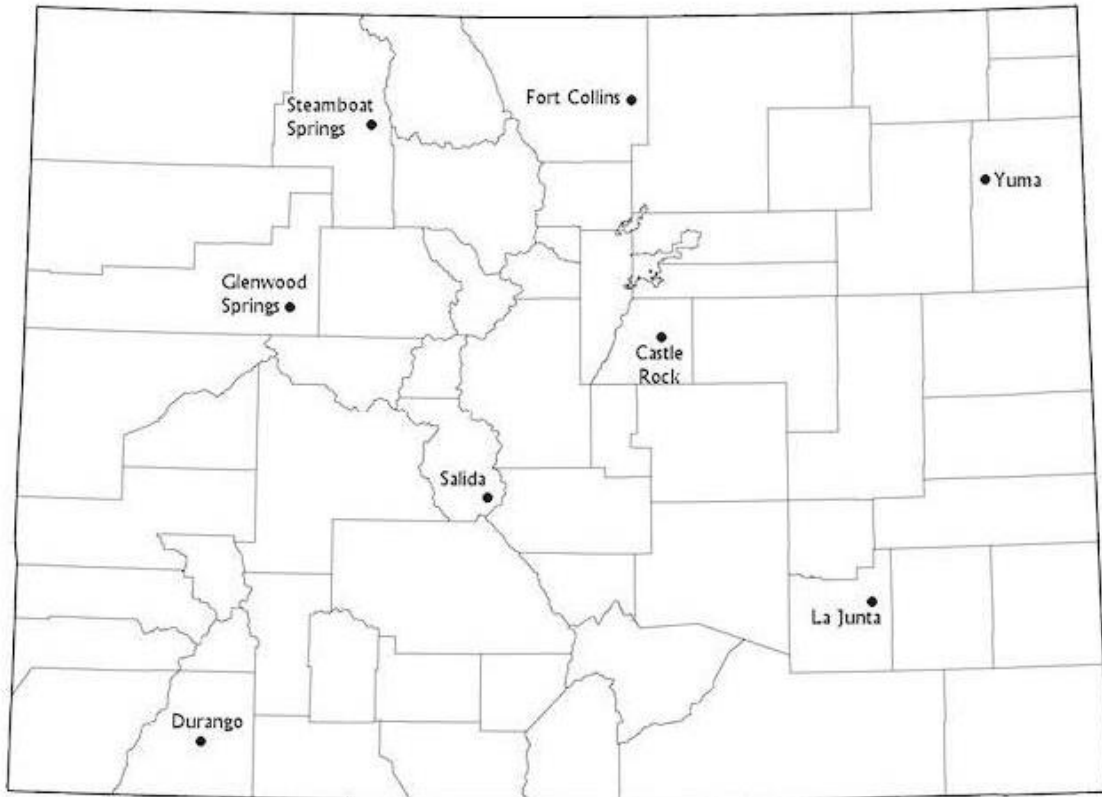
If you are not able to personally attend, please let us know and, if possible, name a substitute as well.

We look forward to your invaluable participation in this important process, to achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Lester".

Michael B. Lester
State Forester
Colorado State Forest Service



FAP regional meeting locations are shown above. All meetings will last from **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, and are scheduled for the dates and venues listed below:

<p>Monday, Sept. 22 Fort Collins Senior Center 1200 Raintree Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80526</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 30 Otero Junior College Student Center Banquet Room 2001 San Juan Ave. La Junta, CO 81050</p>
<p>Wednesday, Sept. 24 Steamboat Springs Community Center 1605 Lincoln Ave. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487</p>	<p>Thursday, Oct. 2 Hampton Inn Conference Room 785 East Highway 50 Salida, CO 81201</p>
<p>Friday, Sept. 26 Douglas County Events Center Kirk Hall 500 Fairgrounds Dr. Castle Rock, CO 80104</p>	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 7 La Plata County Fairgrounds Animas, Florida and Pine Rooms 2500 Main Ave. Durango, CO 81301</p>
<p>Monday, Sept. 29 Indian Hills Club Dining Room 5294 County Road 39 Yuma, CO 80759</p>	<p>Wednesday, Oct. 8 Glenwood Springs Recreation Center Sopris Rooms A, B & C 100 Wulfsohn Rd Glenwood Springs, CO 81601</p>

DRAFT MEETING AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
09:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Joseph A. Duda, Deputy State Forester, CSFS: Overview of the Forest Action Plan and accomplishments Updating process / Q&A
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Gather participant input on 10 strategies, via small group facilitation Strategies include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage forests according to appropriate science-based information to enhance multiple resource values. 2. Promote active forest management to achieve desired short- and long-term conditions that provide for and enhance species, age class and structural diversity to improve resiliency and adaptability as climatic conditions change. 3. Develop a strategic marketing and communications plan to promote the benefits of managing forest resources. 4. Create, promote and sustain a viable forest products industry by ensuring a predictable, dependable timber supply. 5. Use collaborative processes to coordinate planning and implementation of forest management across ownerships to protect communities, natural resources and important infrastructure. 6. Utilize the Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment to support planning and implementation of forest management. 7. Focus on-the-ground efforts to leverage resources. 8. Work with neighboring states to conserve working forest lands. 9. Restore ecosystem function at an appropriate scale to achieve desired future conditions. 10. Reduce process impediments that hinder the implementation of forest management and drive up costs. <p><i>Note: This list does not imply priority order of importance.</i></p>
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Working lunch
12:45 p.m. – 02:15 p.m.	Reconvene for group discussion / Feedback and clarification / Q&A
02:15 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.	Summary / Closing remarks / Next steps