



January 25, 2019

White River National Forest
Mr. Scott Fitzwilliams
Attn: Shelby Limberis
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat McMahon
President
George Kelly
Vice President
Michelle Schindler
Secretary
Jennifer Sauer
Treasurer
Ted Borchelt
Jeff Conklin
Jim Light
Rick Lofaro
Executive Director
Diane Schwener
Larry Yaw

STAFF

Rick Lofaro
Executive Director
Kristen Doyle
Watershed Educator
Heather Lewin
*Director of Science
& Policy*
Christina Medved
Director of Outreach
Liza Mitchell
*Education Programs
Manager*
Chad Rudow
*Water Quality Program
Manager*
Sheryl Sabandal
Development Manager
Mercedes Wilson
*Executive Assistant &
Office Coordinator*

RE: WRNF Forest Health and Fuels Management Project

Dear Scott,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed United States Forest Service, White River National Forest (WRNF), Forest Health and Fuels Management Project. Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) directs its comments to components of the project specifically within the Roaring Fork Watershed and encourages protection of valuable water resources throughout implementation of this project.

RFC commends the project goals of improving forest and watershed health, particularly how they align with the following 2002 White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Goals:

- **Goal 1 Ecosystem Health**

Promote ecosystem health and conservation using a collaborative approach to sustain the nation's forests, grasslands and watersheds.

Objective 1a – Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial uses.

In alignment with the above goals, RFC encourages the WRNF work to ensure that implementation of the project itself stresses protection of water resources and minimizes potential impacts. RFC respectfully requests WRNF implement and adhere to established, applicable best management practices such as: maintaining stream and riparian buffers, utilizing sediment and erosion control, and conducting ecological review, assessment, and monitoring. Please continue to prioritize water resources and water quality throughout implementation of this project.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely

Rick Lofaro
Executive Director

Chad Rudow
Water Quality Program Manager

cc Shelby Limberis