



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
RIO BLANCO COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641
970-878-9430

April 14, 2021

Forest Supervisor
c/o Brett Crary
900 Grand Avenue
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
RE: White River Aspen Management Project

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Rio Blanco County, we are writing in support of the White River Aspen Management Project proposed by the White River National Forest.

Rio Blanco supports the proposed action of *proactive forest management* notably benefiting wildlife, wildfire management and water preservation. Rio Blanco County is home to one of the largest elk herds in North America as well many agriculture (cattle and sheep) users of public lands both offering economic benefit to the county. A major concern in Rio Blanco County, like much of Colorado, is the upcoming wildfire season. Active forest management by reducing fuels and increasing water preservation are essential to managing wildfire events when they arise.

The citizens of Rio Blanco County tend to be accepting of mechanical management and prescribed fire. The option of mechanical management may allow for additional economic development activity in our county, which has been negatively impacted by restrictions on the extractive energy industry. In addition we would like to see a long term commitment to logging in the White River National Forest.

As you continue through the planning process we kindly ask that you consider broadening the scope of the project and increasing the 20,000 acres per decade to allow for increased management. We appreciate the White River National Forest proposing active steps toward forest management and the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact us by email at:

bocc@rbc.us

Sincerely,


Gary Moyer Chairman


Ty Gates Commissioner


Jeff Rector Commissioner

Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado