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To Whom It May Concern,

The Colorado State Forest Service supports the need and the proposed action identified in the St. Vrain Forest Health Project. This project aligns with the goals and strategies of the 2020 Colorado Forest Action plan and the Colorado State Forest Service seeks to continue to be an active partner in the development and implementation of this project and of projects in this landscape. The treatment of the lands identified in the proposed action is critical to protecting our communities, maintaining our watersheds, and ensuring unique habitats and recreational opportunities remain viable on these landscapes.

We support the intentional emphasis of a stakeholder-driven collaborative process that led to the proposed action as a critical component to success for landscape-scale projects in Colorado. The continuation of that collaborative stakeholder-driven process will need to remain a key component moving forward, considering the conditions-based approach. The St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership's continued involvement in planning and implantation should be prioritized as a critical part of building and maintaining the social license for the suite of treatments identified in the proposed action.

We see that the condition-based management approach will allow for collective priorities in the timing of treatments and allow for flexibility in actions to address the local needs of communities and changing conditions of the landscape, including effects from wildfires and emergent forest health issues. This flexibility is critical in these dynamic environments. We would encourage the Forest Service to retain that same flexible approach when looking at specific management prescriptions or desired future conditions associated with the biophysical zones. The potential for the utilization of the Wyden Amendment authorities on private cross-boundary land would require flexibility and alternatives in silvicultural benchmarks that may also have to meet private landowner objectives.

We recognize and support the statement in the proposed action that these efforts will only be successful on the landscape if combined with cross-boundary work on non-USFS lands. Critical to that cross-boundary work will be the potential use of USFS System roads, non-system roads, and even temporary roads for non-federal entities who would be contributing to the protection of the federal lands being analyzed and the landscapes they reside in. We would encourage the timely identification of actions needed for non-federal partners and non-federal contractors to use these transportation systems for treatments on non-USFS lands under the same constraints identified in Appendix C- Preliminary Design Features.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed action and the effort that the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest and the Boulder and Canyon Lakes Ranger District have made to include stakeholder input into this process.

Ben Pfohl- Supervisory Forester CSFS Boulder Field Office