**Saint Vrain Forest Health Project #61372**

Commenting on this Plan is difficult at best! There are so many prescriptions, such a large area covered, such a big project, so many platonics and reams of boiler plate that no way a mountain resident can comment in the technical way you describe in your instructions. But comment I must.

First, there’s no doubt that a project of this type is needed. It undoubtable is long overdue. Those of us living in this wildfire zone have seen numerous examples of devastating fires in our backyard. So that’s the no brainer!

But, and it’s a big BUT, based on several decades of experience with the implementation of a number of localized plans in the Allenspark area, what you’re promised is not what you get. Localized cuts, such as Taylor Mountain and Olive Ridge and Meeker Park, as well as others, have demonstrated the lack of care and attention to the completeness of the cuts, the protection of old growth trees, the assembly and location of slash piles, the completeness a of the burn, the monitoring of smoldering remains, the amount of slash and ground clutter left, etc. All of this and more removes any confidence or trust in the abilities of the U.S, Forest Service to implement the grandiose ideas presented. And it is the IMPLEMENTATION aspect that makes giving any approval to this project at fault. Many of the prescriptions being offered use fire to finalize the cut areas; I can only believe that if the implementation of the simple aspects of a forest cut in previous projects have been defective, to give carte blanche to carry out fires would be doubly troubling.

So until assurances can be offered that this project will be carried out with the greatest of diligence, the highest level care, consideration for the aesthetic aftereffects and communication with the public, that lowest cost bids on implementation will be rejected if they do not fulfill the highest degree of quality, that the final result will truly reduce fire risk immediately, then I have to reject this current proposal.

It’s time for you to overturn the past bad practices and give true assurances that the project will be done with the greatest of care. Your reputation, tarnished as it is, is on the line!