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September 20, 2022
Dennis Kuhnel, District Ranger
Canyon Lakes Ranger District
2150 Centre Avenue, Building E
Fort Collins, CO 80526
Attn: Black Diamond Landscape Resiliency and Risk Reduction Project

Dear Dennis Kuhnel,

The Colorado State Forest Service has no concerns with this project as identified in the scoping documentation and supports the approach of conditions based management in forest planning at this scale. We note that the project area identifies as a high priority area in the Colorado State Forest Service 2020 Forest Action Plan for multiple themes and that the proposed action will promote resilience across the landscape.

We see value in this project's goals aligning with the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy, specifically improving and maintain resilient landscapes and creating fire-adapted communities, which is a major goal of the State of Colorado and CSFS. Actively managing our diverse forests to reduce fuel loading, minimizing fire intensity, and increase resilience of our communities is critical to steward of our forests. We see specific value in a condition-based management approach at a large-scale which allows and empowers forest management at a pace and scale consummate with the need to reduce the risk to catastrophic wildfires.

In addition, we support and agree with an approach that recognizes the importance of collaborative planning and implementation across jurisdictions through programs such as Shared Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority, and other forest management collaborative efforts. We encourage consideration of opportunities to enhance forest management work across boundaries onto adjacent non-federal lands be explored through the use of the Wyden Amendment and other authorities where appropriate. We recognize and support the purpose and need to engage stakeholders across this landscape in shared planning, which may include developing and implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other cross-boundary activities.

We appreciate the hard work of the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest and the Canyon Lakes Ranger District in preparing these documents and look forward to continue managing Colorado's forests in partnership. Thank you for letting the Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins Field Office review and provide comment on the proposed action for the Black Diamond Landscape Resiliency and Risk Reduction Project.

Sincerely,

Max Erickson
Supervisory Forester