



April 25, 2024

Patrick Champa, District Ranger
USDA Forest Service-Bearlodge Ranger District
P.O. BOX 680
Sundance, WY 82729
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65540>

RE: North Sand Forest Management Project

The Crook County Natural Resource District Board of Supervisors discussed the North Sand Forest Management Project and fully supports the USFS Bearlodge Ranger District's efforts to reduce uncharacteristically high fire hazards, increase growing space for pine trees, restore openings and low-density forest on south facing slopes, and diversify species composition. The North Sand Forest Management Project parallels the *Crook County Natural Resource District's 2020-2025 Long-Range Plan* forest management objective "to promote the importance of forest management on both private and public lands to ensure forest health, resiliency and future sustainability".

The Crook County Natural Resource District supports the North Sand Forest Management Project to the extent that we are actively pursuing grant funding to assist private landowners with forest management and wildlife habitat improvement funds to provide mitigation treatments adjacent to or near USFS boundaries. The combined efforts will have a landscape scale impact, reducing the hazard of catastrophic wildfires, and thus decreasing the risk of loss of life and property.

Thank you for providing the Crook County Natural Resource District the opportunity to support the Bearlodge Ranger District's efforts on the North Sand Project. Please contact our Program Coordinator, Sarah Anderson, (anderson.ccnrd@gmail.com or 307-283-2870 x 100) with questions.

Respectfully,

Wayne Garman, CCNRD Board Chairman

Board of Supervisors

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