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Title:

Comments: Public Comment from Colorado/Wyoming SAF

Enclosed is our comment to the Forsythe II project.

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Boulder Ranger District

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This letter is in response to the formal comment period of the Forsythe II project. The Colorado/Wyoming Society of American Foresters supports the Forsythe II project.

We understand the Boulder Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests has proposed the Forsythe II project to utilize a variety of vegetation management treatments with the primary goals of restoring a more resilient forest, reducing the impacts of wildfire on watersheds, providing opportunities for neighboring landowners to create defensible space on the National Forest boundary near their homes, and improving wildlife habitat to benefit species within the project area.

Collaboratively designed projects such as the Forsythe II project are a great example of the type of forest management activities that need to be taking place throughout National Forests in Colorado. Not only does this project include the necessary treatments to achieve the goals, but it also includes an extensive list of design criteria, which helps mitigate potential impacts to wildlife, soils, plants, archeological sites, and other important resources

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak announced that 2015 was a record-breaking year for wildfires, with 10,125,149 acres burned across the U.S. Additionally, more than 4,500 homes and other structures were destroyed and 7 U.S. firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty. With this news, it has become even more apparent that our National Forests are in desperate need of active forest management in order to protect them from catastrophic wildfires. We are grateful to the Forest Service for proposing these types of project that will protect life and property as well as improve our National Forest conditions.

Lyle Lavery

Chair, Colorado/Wyoming Society of American Foresters

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