Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/20/2016 12:01:03 AM
First name: Bruce
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Commenting on Forsythe II Forest Restoration Project

Dear Forest Supervisor Casamassa,

I am writing in support of the "Forsythe II Forest Restoration Project" and the proposed management activities, which will help restore the health of the forests near Nederland and Gross Reservoir, protecting local drinking water and reducing wildfire threats. I believe the Forest Service should utilize the best available science and the latest forest management practices, including commercial thinning, to successfully achieve these objectives.

Unfortunately, Colorado has experienced several large wildfires in the Front Range over the past ten years and many of them took place in similar topography and vegetation type as those included within the Forsythe II project. The project area is heavily used for recreation and should be managed for forest health and for keeping stands in a healthy condition. We need to reduce the density within the lodgepole and mixed conifer stands, utilizing the full range of harvesting and thinning tools.

To make this project effective and efficient, the Forest Service should partner with the private sector to reduce fuel loads while supporting local jobs and the economy. Please resist efforts by some to throw out certain treatments such as patch cuts, regeneration harvesting, and broadcast burning. These are all important management tools and- according to the best available science-need to be an option during implementation. Thank you for accepting this public comment.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ward
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