



July 21, 2017

The Honorable Representative Jeni Arndt, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources
200 East Colfax Ave., Room 223
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Senator Jerry Sonnenberg, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy
200 East Colfax Ave., Room 346
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Arndt and Senator Sonnenberg,

On behalf of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) I am excited to let you know that the Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC) had their second meeting on May 25, 2017 in Frisco at the Frisco County Commons. During this meeting, the Council identified issues that will guide the future work plan focused on creating solutions for improving the health of Colorado's forests

Of the 13 identified priority issues, the following four items require urgent action and will be addressed at the next FHAC meeting to allow FHAC members to share these preliminary ideas with Interim Water Resources Committee in August. The four issues identified below will serve as the Council's first issues to address.

- Discuss the merits of governmental immunity for State and local agencies to facilitate the use of prescribed fire
- Discuss actions that support the elimination of USDA Forest Service fire borrowing, as it reduces funds available for proactive land management
- Support landscape-scale planning to facilitate long-term permitting for USFS projects that are using the best-available science
- Renew the Wildfire Matters Committee and support a name change that promotes forest health

Using the initial list of priority issues, the Council will continue to discuss the complexities of each topic while identifying appropriate actions items. The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2017, at the Buena Vista Community Center from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

I will be working alongside the State Forester in serving as the lead for coordination and communication on the Council for the CSFS. Please feel free to get in touch with me regarding the Council at any time.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Aspelin
Legislative Policy Liaison
Colorado State Forest Service