

Friends of Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

May 7th, 2018

Sonny Perdue, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Victoria Christiansen, Chief
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

RE: Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Funding

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen,

The undersigned organizations and individuals ***request your support to fully fund the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)*** of the USDA Forest Service. We are businesses, land managers, researchers, community organizations, and citizens actively engaged in collaborative forest restoration projects, and we are grateful for this Forest Service program to improve forest health, support wood-based businesses, and provide local jobs in New Mexico.

Since 2001, the CFRP has restored over 33,000 high priority forested acres, created over 750 jobs, and supported collaborative restoration projects encompassing close to 600 different partners across 20 counties in New Mexico. CFRP projects provide local workforce development, ecological and social multiparty monitoring, and education and skill-building activities for youth from forest-based communities.

In New Mexico, the CFRP has been instrumental in a shift away from a culture of conflict over forest management to a collaborative culture committed to boosting the harvesting and wood products sectors, improving forest and watershed health, and supporting local economies. These signatories—representing businesses, tribal authorities, academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations—value the past and future impacts of this USDA Forest Service program in supporting forest health, wood-based businesses, and local jobs in New Mexico.

Since FY2011, the CFRP budget has been at the \$3.2 million level, a reduction from the \$5 million permitted under legislation. At the ecosystem level, this reduction translates into ***action-ready restoration projects with broad stakeholder support not being implemented***. At the community level, the reduction translates into ***high priority acres going untreated and high-quality jobs going unfilled***.

The winter of 2017-18 is a sobering reminder of rising temperatures and increased incidence of drought. With the specter of longer and more intense fire seasons, it is urgent now more than ever to take concerted action to protect our forests and watersheds. At its core, the CFRP builds collaborative capacity and has great potential to assist the Forest Service in meeting its targets. ***We urge you to fully fund this important program at \$5 million and to build on its tremendous foundation of success***.

Sincerely,

Alternative Forestry Unlimited
Mick Deubel
Grant County, NM

Barbara Ehrlich Designs
Barbara Ehrlich
San Miquel, New Mexico

BRL Logging
Happy Simpson, Owner
Cibola, NM

BRL Logging
Kimberly Simpson, Owner
Cibola County, NM

Caro's General Works
Pedro Chavez
Rio Arriba County

Chama Peak Land Alliance
Emily Hohman, Executive Director
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Chimayo Conservation Corps
Sue Ellen Strale
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Chris' Tree Service
Christopher Schaum, Owner
Santa Fe NM

Claunch-Pinto SWCD
Felipe Lovato, Jr.
Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro, Valencia Counties, New Mexico

CM ArborCare LLC
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Los Alamos, NM

Community & Regional Planning, University of New Mexico
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Eastern New Mexico University
Jack H McCaw
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Quentin Hays, Associate Professor
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East Mountains Interagency Fire Protection Association
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Shiloh F. Old, VP
San Miguel County, NM

Gila Tree Thinners
Glenn T. Griffin
Grant County, NM

Gila WoodNet
Gordon West
Grant Co., NM

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Rio Grande Chapter
Dr. Catherine Radovich
Albuquerque New Mexico

Greater Gallina Canyon Firewise Community
Virginia L Clark, President
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Hawks Aloft, Inc.
Gail Garber, Executive Director
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Lockwood Forestry & Excavation
Christopher Lockwood, Owner
Santa Fe, New Mexico

McKinley County New Mexico
Douglas W. Decker, County Attorney
McKinley County New Mexico

Michigan Technological University
Alex Helman, Graduate Student
Michigan

Mt. Taylor Manufacturing, LLC
Matthew Allen, Owner

Cibola County, NM

Native Plant Society of New Mexico – Albuquerque Chapter
James McGrath, Conservation Committee
Albuquerque, NM

Native Plant Society of New Mexico – Albuquerque Chapter
George Miller, President
Albuquerque, NM, Bernalillo County

New Mexico Audubon Council
Thomas Jervis, President
New Mexico

New Mexico Forest Industry Association
Brent Racher, President
New Mexico

New Mexico Recycling Coalition
Sarah Pierpont
Santa Fe, New Mexico

New Mexico State Land Office
Mark Meyers, Forester
Santa Fe, NM

New Mexico Tree Farm Committee
Matthew Silva, Chair
McKinley County, NM

NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute
Dr. Alan Barton, Collaboration Program Manager
San Miguel County, NM

Old Wood, LLC
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Las Vegas, NM

Prometheus Fire Consulting
Phillip Dye - Owner and CEO
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Promise PCES, LLC
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Pueblo of Santa Ana
Range and Wildlife Division Manager
Sandoval County, New Mexico

QB LLC
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Santa Fe, New Mexico

Quivira Coalition
Sarah Wentzel-Fisher, Executive Director
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Rachel Wood Consulting
Rachel Wood, Owner and Forester
Santa Fe, NM

Restoration Technologies
Zeecha Brooks
Grant Co, NM

Rio Arriba County Fire and Emergency services
Carlos Esquibel, RAC Fire Marshal
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Rio Grande Farmers Coalition
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Susan Ostlie, Co-Leader
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Linda Starr, Co-Leader
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

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Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Jordan Stone, Program Manager
Bernalillo, NM

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Adam Splitek, Upper Rio Grande Conservation Program Manager
Taos County, NM

Santa Clara Woodworks
Ellen Schweigert
Grant County, NM

Silver Dollar Wood Products, LLC
Josh Harty, Owner
Colfax County, NM

Silver Dollar Wood Products, LLC
Krystal Harty, Owner
Colfax County, NM

Smoked Goose Consulting, LLC
Ray Guse, Principal
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South Central Mountain RC&D
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Ruidoso, Lincoln County, NM

South Central Mountain RC&D Council
Laura Doth, Executive Director
Lincoln County, New Mexico

South Central Mountain RC&D
Sidney Gordon
Otero County NM

South Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council
J. Brian Greene
Lincoln, Otero Counties NM

Sustainable Ecosystems, LLC
Bruce Bauer, Manager
Santa Fe County, NM

Talking Talons Youth Leadership
Betsy Fulreader, Program Director
Bernalillo County, NM

The Forest Stewards Guild
Zander Evans, Executive Director
Santa Fe, NM

The Nature Conservancy
Laura McCarthy, Associate State Director
Statewide, New Mexico

The Nature Conservancy, Fire Learning Network
Jeremy Bailey, Director, Prescribed Fire Training
Salt Lake City, Utah

The Trollworks
Scott Zager
Grant Co., NM

Tree New Mexico
Suzanne Probart, Executive Director
Albuquerque, NM

Twin Willows Ranch
Michael Bain, General Manager
Mora County, New Mexico

University of Arizona
Dr. Don Falk
Tucson, AZ

University of Arizona
Dr. Tyson Lee Swetnam
AZ

University of Arizona
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Upper Hondo Soil & Water Conservation District
Laura Johnson, Program Coordinator
Capitan, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Village of Ruidoso, Forestry Dept.
Dick C. Cooke, Director of Forestry
Ruidoso, New Mexico

Western Landowners Alliance
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Wildland Fire Associates
John Lissoway
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Wildfire Network
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Santa Fe County

WW Logging LLC
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