



## Board of County Commissioners

970-453-2561  
Post Office Box 68  
208 East Lincoln Avenue  
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

May 7, 2015

Mr. Howard Brown  
376 Spring Beauty Dr.  
P.O. Box 25621  
Silverthorne, CO 80497-5621

Dear Mr. Brown,

We are writing to you in response to the petition you submitted to the Summit Board of County Commissioners on April 14 regarding potential impacts to the Peaks Trail by the U.S. Forest Service's Ophir Mountain Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project.

We certainly share your strong concerns for forest health, wildfire protection, recreational resources and wildlife, and we thank you for your input on the Ophir Mountain Project. However, we don't share your view that the project's implementation should be delayed in order to re-evaluate its merits.

It is our view that the U.S.F.S Ophir Mountain Project makes sound use of the best available science, a solid understanding of current conditions and extensive input from stakeholders and the general public to address wildfire protection and forest health goals in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Representatives of Summit County government, including the BOCC, communicate regularly and work closely with experts from the U.S. Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, local fire districts, local municipalities and other partners to ensure that all agencies' fuels reduction and forest health activities are carried out in accordance with the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. And we remain confident in the CWPP's objectives, actions, policies and programs. We firmly believe that these objectives, actions, policies and programs are essential in protecting lives, property, infrastructure, water supplies, recreational resources, natural resources, the local economy and our cherished way of life in Summit County for the long term.

Sincerely,

Karn Stiegelmeier  
Summit County Commissioner

Dan Gibbs  
Summit County Commissioner

Thomas C. Davidson  
Summit County Commissioner