



July 17th, 2012

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We understand that the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands will be considering HR 6089, the Healthy Forest Management Act of 2012. We wish to provide comments for consideration during this hearing.

We support proactive measures to address forest health and mitigate the dangers unnaturally intense wild fires pose to human safety, property, infrastructure, wildlife habitat, and water quality. HR 6089 contains provisions that we believe take much needed steps to address this issue.

Specifically, HR 6089 vests actual authority to identify high risk areas and initiate mitigation measures to those most able to recognize the risk and with the most at stake should a wild fire erupt, that is, the respective states in coordination with county governments. We would certainly address the agencies with the power to determine areas of critical concern and stress the importance of arming our states and counties with the ability to address wild fire threats right in our back yards. While we appreciate any efforts to include our input in an advisory or cooperative role, we very much prefer the flexibility allowed to actually initiate mitigation measures.

Moffat County would support the local involvement in decision making. HR 6089 also recognizes the importance of cooperative mitigation efforts. HR 6089 is, a common sense measure fostering comprehensive, long term forest health projects.

We further appreciate the expedited procedures allowed for in HR 6089 for emergency hazardous fuels reduction projects in identified high risk areas. An element of consistency in addressing forest health is good common sense, and receives our full support.

Thank you and your subcommittee members for your efforts regarding this issue, and for providing state and local government the tools and provisions necessary to ensure the protection of our public lands and forest health. We very much hope this insight proves valuable to you and your colleagues.

HR 6089 would be a valuable tool to address fire mitigation in the long term, and wish to express our full support for the bill.

Sincerely,

Audrey Danner
Moffat County Commissioner, District 2

COMMISSIONERS

221 West Victory Way, Suite 130
Craig, CO 81625
(970) 824-5517
(970) 824-9191

Tom Gray
District 1

Audrey Danner
District 2

Tom Mathers
District 3