

COLORADO FOREST AND WATER ALLIANCE
Members: Colorado Water Congress, Colorado Timber Industry, The Nature Conservancy, Club 20, and Watershed Health Investment Partners

April 30, 2019

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Senator Tom Udall, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Udall,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to urge you to provide full funding in line with the 2018 Farm Bill for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). As communities across the country struggle with the impact of severe fire seasons, now is the time to expand this vital forest program.

Since its enactment in 2009, CFLRP has had a proven track record of success in bringing collaboration to our forests to increase forest health, mitigate wildfires, and support rural economies and local voices. CFLRP requires various local stakeholders to collaborate, resulting in stronger relationships on the ground, better projects, and a decreased risk of conflict and litigation.

To date, 23 CFLRP projects in 14 states have sold more than 2.5 billion board feet of timber; created \$1.4 billion in local labor income; and improved 760 miles of trails for sports enthusiasts and recreation. On average, CFLRP creates or maintains 5,400 jobs each year at current funding levels - a number that would likely increase if funding is expanded. In addition, CFLRP has reduced the risk of megafires on more than 2.9 million acres.

Because of this bipartisan program's successful track record, the 2018 Farm Bill (Public Law 115-334) doubled the size of its funding authorization. There is interest across the country in establishing new collaborative projects as well as sustaining current projects. As the national conservation on forest management continues, it is imperative that we invest in programs that reduce conflict in our forests and increase the number of logs sent to mills.

As you draft the FY2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fully fund CFLRP. Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Travis Smith for
Colorado Water Congress

Molly Pitts for
Colorado Timber Industry Association

Aaron Citron for
The Nature Conservancy

Cindy Dozier for
Club 20

Mark Shea for
Watershed Health Investment Partners

c. Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Michael Bennet