



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300
P.O. Box 550 ★ Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550
www.club20.org

02-9 PL 5
Forest Management, Proactive

WHEREAS: Past forest management has resulted in dangerously high fuel loads, unnaturally dense forests, and severe fire danger on National Forests in Colorado and across the country; and

WHEREAS: The procedural morass of federal laws, regulations, and frivolous litigation have contributed to a climate of process gridlock on our National Forests, thwarting attempts by land managers, local governments, and others to address the growing fire threat posed by worsening forest conditions; and

WHEREAS: According to the General Accounting Office, this chronic lack of active management has left one in three acres of our National Forests either dead or dying; and

WHEREAS: These heretofore described forest conditions are causing extensive degrading impacts to forest resources, such as water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, watershed health, rangelands, and old growth trees; and

WHEREAS: This year, over 50,000 fires have burned more than 6 million acres – or more than 9,000 square miles – nationally and more than one-half million acres have burned in the state of Colorado alone; and

WHEREAS: These losses total more than three times the ten year average, underscoring the need for a more active and comprehensive approach to National Forest management to restore our National Forests to a more ecologically sustainable condition; and

WHEREAS: Without active treatment, some 75 million acres – an area geographically larger than the state of Arizona – remain at extreme risk to catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS: Seven million acres in Colorado alone are highly susceptible to such fires;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 encourages members of the Colorado Congressional delegation to support common sense forest management efforts, with an emphasis on preserving water quality, protecting watersheds, reducing hazardous fuels, addressing insect infestations, and protecting homes, businesses, and communities from the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Club 20 encourages members of the Colorado Congressional delegation to support the principles advocated by President Bush in his Healthy Forests Initiative, and embodied by the comprehensive management and procedural reforms included in the Healthy Forests Reform Act, introduced by Congressman Scott McInnis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 requests the United States Department of Agriculture and the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to establish an Emergency Declaration on western forest lands exhibiting the above noted conditions, which will permit immediate treatments to restore these watersheds.

Adopted September 6, 2002.