

The National Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire

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To: Interested Parties

From: The National Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire
Larry Alexander, Executive Director and Bruce Courtright, Board Chair

A colleague or friend suggested that you may be able to assist our Institute in encouraging Congress to initiate actions to revitalize the National Forest System which we believe is in severe decline. The enclosed material presents an overview of the key factors responsible for the current serious condition of the National Forest System based on our assessment.

We have collaborated with a group of former Forest Service subject matter experts and individuals from affected local and state governments in the preparation of the enclosed material which includes recommendations for solutions to today's challenges facing the Forest Service in the management of the National Forests.

In our view the solution lies with the Congress's ability to initiate a comprehensive review of the National Forest System to ensure that this valuable national resource is protected and managed consistent with Congress's intent when it established these lands. The continued delivery of the valuable goods and services they provide to the American public and the Nation are at stake.

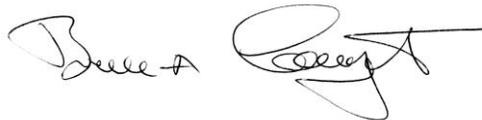
We are asking for your help in sharing the enclosed information with your local legislative contacts and other people who can influence Congress to act. Our expectation is that Congress will request a new public land law review commission, or the Government Accounting Office to conduct a comprehensive review of the National Forest System, relying in part on the issues we have raised in the enclosed material. Our elected leaders need our unified strength to take action now in restoring the environmental health and economic productivity of one of our Country's greatest treasures, the National Forests.

Our appreciation for whatever assistance you may be able to provide in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Larry Alexander, Executive Director



Bruce A. Courtright, Board Chair

8 Enclosures

The enclosed position paper is a living document, subject to revision based on changing conditions, from

The National Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire

"The mission of the National Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire is to educate, collaborate and motivate decision makers at all levels to take the necessary steps to eliminate catastrophic wildfire."