



City of Flagstaff

7 May 2013

Erin Phelps
FWPP Project Leader
USFS – Flagstaff Ranger District
5075 N. Highway 89
Flagstaff AZ 86004

SUBJECT: Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project - Proposed Action

Dear Erin:

On behalf of the entire City of Flagstaff, I want to express both appreciation for the effort that has gone into the development of the Proposed Action (PA), and to clearly articulate our full-support for the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP).

As a community, since 1997, we have been fully-engaged in both city and partnership efforts to restore our forests, protect our community from the effects of devastating wildfire and subsequent post-fire events, and ensure our quality-of-life. We take pride in the fact that the threat is both recognized, and has been - and continues to be - acted upon in a responsible, scientifically-based, socially-accepted manner. Our results to-date have been very successful, and have proven a worthwhile investment during serious fire events: we take our role as a national-model seriously.

In November 2012, city voters stepped-forward and overwhelmingly approved a \$10 million bond to plan, conduct, and monitor forest treatments on two key municipal watersheds, primarily on US Forest Service lands outside the city's corporate boundary. We've watched other communities and areas suffer serious emotional and financial impacts, and citizens here spoke for proactive action to prevent such an event in our community. While other cities and towns are engaged in similar "Payment for Watershed Services" efforts, Flagstaff is the first community, so far as we know, to do so with voter approval of a municipal bond. That alone speaks volumes about our commitment to, and support for, this project.

In closing, thank you for this opportunity to comment. We remain strong advocates for the FWPP, and we look forward to continuing our successful collaborative effort.

Yours for a better tomorrow

Jerry Nabours
Mayor

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