

## Review Draft with Incorporated Review Comments

December 12, 2011

### Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives Agreement for Collaboration

#### 1) Purpose:

Colorado has a long and constructive tradition of citizens working together to positively address ecological, social, and economic issues confronting the forested lands of the state. Colorado's forested lands face many challenges from insects, disease, wildfire, climate variations, conflicting uses, population growth, and policy and regulatory disagreements. Local citizens, not waiting for national or state level solutions to issues directly confronting them often form collaborative groups of a broad spectrum of interests in specific areas to define the issues and explore and implement ways of addressing the issues through agreement and consensus. Because of the great distances in Colorado and the various types of forested land, specific to elevation, latitude and proximity to the Continental Divide, citizen and place based forest collaboratives often work in relative isolation from other such groups throughout the state.

Therefore *the purpose of the Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives (Association) is to provide a forum that will enable the individual collaboratives to improve communications with one another to:*

- *Share information*
- *Learn from one another*
- *Identify common ground*
- *Develop strategies for addressing common topics*
- *Leverage human and financial resources through agreement and speaking with a unified voice*

#### 2) Areas of Focus:

The focus of the Association will be:

- a) The forested lands of Colorado regardless of ownership.
- b) The economic, social, and environmental values derived from the forested lands of Colorado.
- c) Colorado communities dependent on the forested lands.

*The Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives is a voluntary information sharing, peer learning, and resources leveraging network focused on developing unified strategies to positively address and resolve issues confronting Colorado's forested lands.*

#### 3) Desired Outcomes:

Through working in a collaborative manner, the Association hopes to achieve:

- a) Increased capacity of the individual participating Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives in the areas of leadership breadth and depth, expanded data bases, and financial sustainability.
- b) Increased leveraging of human and financial resources to better compete in acquiring increased amounts of public and private funding for on the ground projects within Colorado.

- c) Increased influence regarding legislative and regulatory initiatives and processes that affect the ability to implement on the ground actions within Colorado.
- d) More unified statewide strategies that will be implemented at the local levels.
- e) Increased public awareness and understanding of forest health and community protection realities within Colorado.

4) Partners:

The Association of Colorado's Citizen and Place Based Forest Collaboratives is open to all interested organizations operating as a collaborative with a stake in the natural resources derived from the forested lands of Colorado. The Association is open to all existing and future collaboratives of multiple stakeholders who operate on the principle that more can be achieved through working together than by working alone and that collaboration built upon mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual benefit rather than confrontation based on win/lose outcomes can achieve shared goals. It is understood that partnership in the Association is strictly voluntary and that any partner may withdraw from the Association at any time for any reason.

5) Timeframe:

The Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives is established on a calendar year-to-year, as needed basis. Continuation of the Association will be addressed at the Annual Meeting of the Partners and will be decided by the Partners by consensus.

6) Meetings and Sharing of Information:

Due to the time, distance, and financial limitation of the Association and its individual members, only one in-person meeting will be held annually, all other communications will be electronic in nature including telephone, email, Webpage, blog, teleconferencing, or any other suitable technology adopted by the partners.

7) Decision Process:

All decisions of the Association will be consensus based with all partners having an equal voice around the collaboration table.

8) Authorities and Limitations:

The Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives has no legal authority and is not recognized by the State of Colorado as an operating corporation of any IRS tax designation. All decisions of the Association are advanced through the legal authorities and/or fiscal agents of the individual partners. The Association cannot enter into contracts or be the direct recipients of public or private funds. Further, individual partners are not bound by any decision of the Association to expend financial resources, exceed legal limitations imposed by applicable statutes, or limitations imposed by individual governing boards. The individual Partners assume no liability for actions taken by the Association.

**Therefore** in the interest of the health of Colorado's forested lands, the protection of Colorado's forest dependent communities, and in review and understanding of the considerations put forward by this document we, the undersigned, agree to voluntarily participate in the Association of Colorado's Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaboratives. Furthermore we commit to working with one another in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration in mutual respect to each other to advance the goals of the Association.

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Name of Citizen & Place Based Forest Collaborative

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Name of Authorized Representative. Date

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