



**Gilpin County
Colorado**

Commissioners

Marie Mornis,
District 1

Susan Berumen,
District 2

Sandy Hollingsworth,
District 3

County Manager
Ray Rears

County Attorney
Bradford Benning

Address

P.O. Box 366
203 Eureka Street
Central City, Colorado 80427

*Located in the Historic
Gilpin County Courthouse*

Phone

Main: 303.582.5214
Fax: 303.582.5440

Web Site

[www.gilpincounty.
colorado.gov](http://www.gilpincounty.colorado.gov)

Facebook

Gilpin County Colorado

October 17, 2023

Colorado State Forest Service
3843 Laporte Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80523

To the CSFS FRWRM Review Committee,

RE: Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) Application for Funding 2023 - 2024

The Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners wishes to express support for the Timberline Fire Protection District's (TFPD) application for the 2023-2024 Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant Program. They are seeking 50% funding over a span of four years to sustain their crucial Mitigation Coordinator position. We believe that this funding is essential for continuing the vital work of mitigating wildfire risk in our community and surrounding areas.

The Mitigation Coordinator position plays a pivotal role in our region, and we are pleased to partner with Timberline Fire District and Colorado State University Extension to provide the necessary education and resources to landowners on fire mitigation. This role significantly augments our outreach and educational efforts, enabling us to better serve our residents by conducting site-specific fire assessments and offering tree pest diagnostics, among other services.

The urgency for ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts in Gilpin County and its adjacent areas cannot be overstated. This grant serves to finance the "boots on the ground" - the individual actively engaged in mitigation work for our county and its residents. Notably, this position conducts on-site visits to engage with landowners directly, discussing their unique needs and assessing the requirements for effective fire mitigation. There is no other position within our county that is dedicated to this crucial work.

Moreover, the prevalence of Mountain Pine Beetle populations in Gilpin County represents an escalating concern, and we anticipate a growing demand for this type of assistance and mitigation work in the coming 5-10 years. We recognize the inherent value and potential impact of this position on the safety, well-being, and resilience of our community.

We wholeheartedly endorse Timberline Fire District's request for funding to maintain the Mitigation Coordinator position and their FRWRM grant proposal. This position is instrumental in addressing the ever-present wildfire threat in our area, and its continued existence is essential for the safety and security of our residents. We hope you recognize the significance of this request and provide the necessary support to sustain this essential position in Gilpin County.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Marie Mornis

Susan Berumen

Sandy Hollingsworth