

Arica Andreatta, Chairman  
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner  
Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner



## Board of County Commissioners

Colorado State Forest Service  
5060 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

October 8, 2024

RE: JAJB Properties, LLC Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for JAJB Properties, LLC application to the 2024 Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant. We recognize that fuel reduction projects such as this play a crucial role in reducing wildfire risk in Huerfano county.

Funding from programs like the Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant are important for landscape scale fuel reduction work and this project targets an area of high fuel density that is difficult to access. In addition to reducing wildfire risk to residents of the county, reducing the density of trees in these areas will serve to open up land for grazing, which in turn helps to reduce wildfire risk through the forage of cattle on grass fuels. The breaks in the packed forest are also important habitat for wildlife like elk, who prefer the patches of trees and open meadows created by fuel reduction projects such as the one JAJB Properties LLC is proposing.

We appreciate that this proposed project is tied into objectives in the La Veta Fire Protection District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is a continuation of completed and in progress fuel reduction work that has been funded by previous FRWRM grants. JAJB Properties LLC's other fuel reduction projects have focused on land across multiple agricultural ranches, have taken into consideration nearby residential subdivisions like River Ridge Ranch, have outlined a scope that is within their ability to complete and have addressed the use of forest byproducts created by fuel reduction work.

JAJB Properties LLC has engaged with their surrounding communities and neighboring ranches, have created realistic work plans and been effective in carrying out treatments. Their goals and methodologies are in line with the intent of the Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant and their project focuses on important areas that are difficult to access and treat. Our Board of County Commissioners is proud to offer this letter of support.

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Arica Andreatta  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners

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