



## COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** August 19, 2025

**ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER:** Consideration and Approval of Letter of Support for Treatment of Unhealthy Forest Lands, Nick Sandberg, Public Lands Coordinator

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve and sign letter

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### SUMMARY

Garfield County's national forest lands have areas of dead timber, the result of insect infestations and/or disease and prolonged drought. These areas of unhealthy forest conditions create a potential for catastrophic wildfire, create a blight on scenic qualities and provide very little protection for watersheds. A local business there has tried unsuccessfully to get USFS approval to harvest this dead timber. Garfield Commissioner Pollock is scheduled to meet with the Forest Service Chief to try to get action by the agency to treat these unhealthy forest areas using all feasible methods available including local business contracts. Garfield County has requested that our county and others support its concerns and efforts with a letter of support. San Juan County forest lands have some areas of similar unhealthy conditions. The attached letter notes our similar concerns and supports Garfield's efforts encouraging treatments along with the creation of jobs. If you approve this letter, it would be carried by Commissioner Pollock to the Forest Chief and used in his efforts to secure action by the Forest Service.

### HISTORY/PAST ACTION

None

### FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown