



## CRYSTAL LAKES Road and Recreation Association

300 Tami Road, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545

May 14, 2018

Mark Morgan  
Morgan Timber Products  
2532 County Rd. 54G  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I wanted to relay to you the desperate situation that exists in the Crystal Lakes subdivision, a mountain community of 4,800 acres, 1,590 property owners, and over \$220 million in property value, approximately 70 miles northwest of Fort Collins.

We are a home owners' association and as such we are prohibited from burning slash even though we lease land in an open area for a "slash depot" as we can't find any liability insurance.

We are in an area that was heavily devastated by pine beetle and now we are facing other infestations. Our property owners are diligent about removing the dead trees; and until the ban on the forest service helping private landowners burn slash piles, the local fire department assisted with this effort.

After that, a group of property owners ran an air curtain burner until it was no longer functional. This was followed by the Association leasing pasture land and operating a slash depot utilizing a commercial forestry company coming in to grind the slash. The volume of chips each year ranged between 16 and 22 semi-trailer loads! Unfortunately, we can no longer obtain grinding services as the market is over-saturated with chip product.

Unless a solution is found, the subdivision has no option but to increase our fire risk due to slash build-up. With our subdivision's high property value, this would be a catastrophic loss!

We recognize the risk and have even been awarded a FEMA grant to assist with creating shaded fuel breaks, as we are in the middle of the Roosevelt and Arapahoe National Forests. We need help as this is now a situation we can't resolve on our own.

Respectfully,

*Cheryl Poage*

President  
Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association





