



18 Apr 08

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Senator Kyl:

The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership is a community-based collaborative keenly interested in forest restoration, community protection, and small-diameter wood utilization. We greatly appreciate the efforts you and your committee have undertaken regarding these issues.

As such, we strongly support the following:

- Passage of the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (that can be a source of funding for the NEPA preparation of landscape-scale stewardship contracts);
- Extension of the Stewardship Contracting authority after 2013;
- Amendment of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (to end the requirement of obligating up-front the cost of the government's potential financial liability should the contract be canceled); and
- Amendment of the definition of "renewable biomass" in the Renewable Fuels Standard of the Energy Bill (to include woody biomass from federal lands).

We recognize the need to develop policy and encourage practices that are scientifically valid, socially supported, and ecologically sustainable. Our forests provide valuable societal benefits to our country, and we must move forward if we are to protect and enhance these national treasures. Again, thank you for your involvement in this effort.

Respectfully,

Paul Summerfelt
President – Board of Directors

CC: Members, GFFP