



December 7, 2006

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker-elect of the House
Office of the Speaker of the House
2371 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader-elect
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
SH-528 HSOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
House Majority Leader-elect
Office of the House Majority Leader
1011 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader-elect
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
SR-361A RSOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell and Representatives Pelosi and Boehner:

We are pleased to provide you with a new *Implementation Plan* that will help set the course for the second five years of “*A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Strategy*.”

The *10-Year Strategy* was requested by the Congress in 2000. The fires that year focused national attention on the threats wildland fire poses to people, communities, and natural resources. All levels of government responded and, in concert with a wide spectrum of non-governmental interests, joined forces to develop a comprehensive nationwide approach to lessen the impacts of unwanted fires. In August 2001, the Western Governors’ Association, the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, and many others, including southern Governors, the National Association of Counties and tribes approved the *10-Year Strategy*. The original *Implementation Plan* for the *10-Year Strategy* was approved in May 2002.

Governmental and non-governmental entities are collaborating and making significant progress on the ground and in management to address this nation’s fire and forest health needs. The introduction to the new *Implementation Plan* describes this progress. Yet, despite our best efforts thus far, substantial work on our forest and rangeland remains. The new *Implementation Plan* sets forth desired outcomes, performance measures, and responsibilities for the *Strategy’s* four goals: improving fire prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring ecosystems and promoting community assistance. The goals are interrelated and mutually reinforcing: restoring ecosystems and reducing hazardous fuels reduces risks to communities and provides economic benefits, in addition to improving fire prevention and suppression.

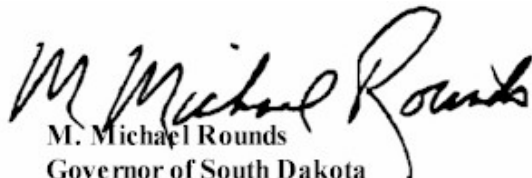
This new *Implementation Plan* emphasizes:

- Information sharing and monitoring of accomplishments and forest conditions to improve transparency.
- A long-term commitment to maintaining the essential resources for implementation.
- A landscape-level vision for restoration of fire adapted ecosystems.
- The importance of using fire as a management tool.
- Continued improvement in our collaboration efforts.


We have again worked closely with a range of stakeholders and experts to craft the new *Implementation Plan*. These individuals have endorsed its content. They are listed in Appendix C of the enclosure.

We believe, over time, that the approach detailed in the new *Implementation Plan* will significantly diminish the risks posed by wildfire to our communities and the environment. We look forward to reporting our progress to you.


Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota
Chairman



Dave Freudenthal
Governor of Wyoming
Vice Chairman



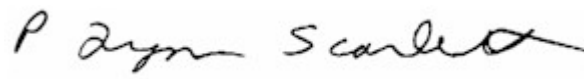
Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona




James E. Risch
Governor of Idaho




Mike Johanns
Secretary of Department of Agriculture



P. Lynn Scarlett
Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior



Colleen Landkamer
Commissioner, Blue Earth County, MN
President of the National Association of Counties



E. Austin Short, III
Delaware State Forester
President of the National Association of State Foresters