



*Guaranteeing that open lands remain a part of southeastern Colorado's heritage.*

January 27, 2016

Dennis Will  
City of Colorado Springs  
Parks and Recreation, Forestry Division  
1401 Recreation Way  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Dear Dennis:

Palmer Land Trust holds conservation easements on 8 open space properties owned and managed by the City of Colorado Springs, as well as 110 other conservation properties in southeastern Colorado. We have been noting progressive defoliation on some of these properties, particularly along the Front Range, from the Douglas-fir Tussock Moth and the Western Spruce Budworm. As co-stewards of the land we appreciate the City's leadership on this issue, particularly your efforts to form a task force to study and address the issue and the threat these insects pose in their ability to kill Douglas fir and spruce trees in our region.

We understand that the agent to be used in the spraying is a naturally-occurring biological one, rather than a chemical one, and that it has 30 years of proven, documented success targeting particular troublesome species without harmful side effects. We appreciate that this agent has a proven track record of no toxicity to humans or non-target mammals, birds or other insects and no damage to water supplies and forests. We would like to voice our support for the City's planned control efforts.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Thomas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Thomas  
Director of Land Stewardship