

Colorado Voters: Don't Get Burned by The Nature Conservancy on Proposition 137

We, the undersigned groups are very concerned that Colorado voters may not have much background on The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the main sponsor of [Proposition 137](#): “Retain Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation and Wildfire Prevention Fund Initiative.”

Many of the signatories to this letter were also among the 158 faith, justice, and environmental groups that signed on to an open letter to The Nature Conservancy, titled “Stop Perpetuating Forest Destruction, Pollution, Carbon Emissions, and Environmental Injustice.” That letter to TNC can be read at the end of the report, [The Nature Conspiracy](#).

The exposé details some of The Nature Conservancy's most ecologically disastrous “greenwashing” schemes, including its promotion of expanding logging as a supposed wildfire and climate “solution.” This warning is coming from local groups in communities around the country who have experienced harmful effects from TNC's actions.

Already, we can see similar things happening in Colorado. This March, TNC testified *against* a [bill](#) in the Colorado state legislature that would've routed a percentage of “wildfire mitigation” funding—that's [supposed](#) to be allocated for protecting homes and infrastructure—away from almost exclusively logging towards the only scientifically proven way to save communities from wildfire: [home hardening](#), i.e. fire-resistant materials in and no further than 100 feet around structures. The bill would have provided home hardening grants to low-income, elderly, and disabled residents at highest risk from wildfire, but the bill was defeated with the help of TNC and other backers of Prop. 137.

During his [testimony](#), Rob Addington, Forest and Fire Program Director for TNC, candidly acknowledged that his organization—which has a [\\$1.8 billion](#) annual budget—gets government funding to log public lands in Colorado. TNC opposed any “wildfire mitigation” money going towards home hardening protections at the “expense” of logging, very plainly admitting that, “we value this funding.”

As you look at Proposition 137, we urge voters to investigate The Nature Conservancy itself—particularly its [corporate partners](#) and corporate [board members](#)—and the many examples in the report linked above illustrating TNC's troubling behavior towards local communities and the natural environment.

Sincerely,

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Battle Creek Alliance
Christians Caring for Creation
Climate Communications Coalition
Coastal Plain Conservation Group
Conservation Congress
Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue
Dogwood Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Friends of the Clearwater
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Global Justice Ecology Project
Grazing Reform Project
Green Root Podcast
Heartwood

Inland Empire Task Force
Institute for a Democratic Psychoanalysis
John Muir Project
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Last Tree Laws, L.L.C.
Landelijk Netwerk Bos-en-Bomenbescherming
Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation
RESTORE: The North Woods
Santa Fe Forest Coalition
Southern Forests Conservation Coalition
Swan View Coalition
Tennessee Heartwood
Wild Watershed
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
Wildlands Defense