



Girl Scouts of Colorado  
3801 E. Florida Ave., Suite 720  
Denver, CO 80210

Dear Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of Girl Scouts of Colorado,

Making the world a better place through the sharing of your knowledge, skills and abilities with a girl to build her courage, confidence and character is undoubtedly a very powerful thing. Bringing new life to land decimated by natural and other disasters through the planting of a tree is impacting the resilience of our natural world for hundreds of years to come. As I see it, there are parallels between these efforts - both will mature and shape our collective future in ways we may not now imagine.

This year, in lieu of individual gifts to Girl Scouts volunteers, Girl Scouts of Colorado has chosen to plant a seedling tree in honor of each of the approximately 7,500 Girl Scout Volunteers statewide. As a forester, I cannot think of a better or more enduring way to recognize your selfless gift of time and effort than the planting of a tree of appreciation. All of us at the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) accept this contribution with sincere gratitude.

Your gift to the Restoring Colorado's Forests Fund will provide seedlings for planting in areas that are critical to water protection and wildlife habitat and that provide the most public benefit. Although the locations and species planted will vary, we can assure you that your trees will be planted in priority forests and watersheds within Colorado where there is no longer a viable seed source. Some of the projects we are pursuing now include burned areas in southwest Colorado, areas impacted by the High Park Fire and potentially a flood restoration project west of Fort Collins. It is our hope that your visionary organizational gift will act as a catalyst for other organizations to support the restoration of our state's forests which have become overly dense, impacted by insects and diseases and burned by high-intensity wildfires.

As part of this exciting new collaborative arrangement, we are pleased to work with the Girl Scouts to help girls and their adult leaders gain a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, trees and forests in Colorado. This may include assistance with the pursuit of badges such as the Girl Scout Cadette "Naturalist" legacy badge via the annual CSFS-led Scout Day, tours through the CSFS Seedling Nursery and educational materials designed by the CSFS specifically for youth such as the beautifully illustrated booklet, *The Role of Wildland Fire in Our Forests*. The Girl Scouts of Colorado and the Colorado State Forest Service are initiating this connection with the hope that this becomes an enduring organizational relationship, one that recognizes the importance of volunteers in helping girls to understand trees, forests and wildfire and improving our forest conditions in scenic "Colorful Colorado".

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lester', is positioned below the 'With appreciation,' text.

Mike Lester  
State Forester and Director  
Colorado State Forest Service