

Boulder County Board of County Commissioners
1325 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor
Boulder, CO 80302

September 20, 2026

RE: Concerns Regarding Xcel Energy / Wright Tree Service Vegetation Management in Fourmile Canyon

Dear Commissioners,

We are a group of Fourmile Canyon residents writing to raise concerns about the tree-cutting work currently being carried out by Wright Tree Service, a contractor for Xcel Energy, along the power line corridors in our canyon.

We want to be clear from the outset: we understand and support the need for vegetation management around power lines to reduce wildfire risk. Few communities are more attuned to that danger than ours. Many of our neighbors have lived through catastrophic wildfires, and we have no interest in standing in the way of legitimate fire mitigation work.

That said, the scope and manner of this year's work has changed noticeably from past seasons. What has historically been selective clearing of limbs and vegetation near the lines has, this year, progressed in many areas to clear-cutting wide swaths through the forest. Neighbors have reported that attempts to negotiate agreements around cutting on their property have not been honored; cuts are frequently extending beyond pre-tagged trees and utility easement boundaries.

This has raised questions within our community about how Wright is operating, the actual extent of the cutting underway, and whether landowners are being treated as partners in this process. We are aware that some of our neighbors have responded by forbidding Wright from working on their property altogether, which exacerbates the fire risks we are collectively most concerned about.

We would like the opportunity to have more meaningful input into how the work is conducted on our land: which trees are cut, how access is negotiated and respected, and how disputes or damages are addressed when agreements aren't honored.

Because this work is actively underway and moving quickly through the canyon, we would like to request a conversation with the Commissioners as soon as possible. We would also welcome the Commissioners' help facilitating a joint meeting between our neighborhood, Xcel Energy, Wright Tree Service, and a representative of the Board, so that all parties can better understand how to balance fire mitigation needs with respect for landowners and the character of our shared forest.

Please let us know if you are open to a conversation or meeting along these lines. Given the pace of the work in the canyon, a prompt response would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing work representing Boulder County.

Sincerely,

Trace Hybertson - 597 Fourmile Canyon Rd
Rachel Tracy, 25 Crisman Rd
Dan Spokojny, 5460 Fourmile Canyon Rd
Mary Elverhoy, 741 Wild Turkey Trail
Greg LaLiberte, 741 Wild Turkey Trail
Taylor Elverhoy Holland, 741 Wild Turkey Trail
James Hinshaw, 10221 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Tenaya Hinshaw, 10221 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Tom Heinbockel, 4726 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Karen E. Bowen, 4850 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Carolanne McKirnan, 270 Gold Run Rd
Bruce Schwartz, 5851 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Larry Rasmussen, 490 Gold Run Rd
Anna Stifter, 313 Gold Run Rd
Steve Tingris, 5216 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Joseph Baran, 22 Switzerland Trail Rd.
Marti Anderson, 589 Melvina Hill Rd
Sarah Kuyper, 4950 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Dwight Jones, 1488 Gold Run Road
Rosanne Lovato, 1488 Gold Run Rd
Zach Hedstrom, 8453 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Stefan McVoy, 849 Melvina
Meghan Dillmore, 849 Melvina
Giuseppe Benanzin, 1446 Melvina Hill Rd
Claudia Piccoli, 1446 Melvina Hill Rd
Deborah Koepke, 245 Alaska Road
Ben Page, 610 East St
Raoudha Zelaya, 9220 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Natalie Shishido, 610 East St
Ben Greenwood, 2876 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Emily Greenwood, 2876 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Lori Magnus, 6148 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Michael Whited, 6148 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Bill Hyatt, 3476 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Pam Green, 3476 Fourmile Canyon Dr

Dolores Berbaum, 595 Fourmile Canyon Dr
William Makepeace, 9083 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Mary Makepeace, 9083 Fourmile Canyon Dr
Louis Karp, 2179 Fourmile Canyon Drive Dr
Jan Karp, 2179 Fourmile Canyon Drive Dr

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