

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5003

October 18, 2005

Dale Bosworth  
Chief  
USDA Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Bosworth:

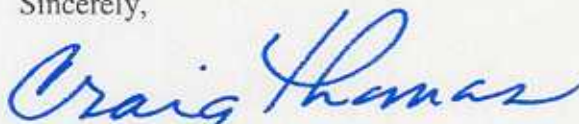
I am writing to you today regarding the recent decision in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of California. As you know, this is a misguided and wrong decision that will have harmful effects on our National Forests, and I urge you to fight the decision with every available tool and resource.

People in Wyoming, and across the nation, deserve to have access to the forests that are in our backyards. Wyoming is a state that is built on the personal freedoms it offers to people and I look forward to working with you to ensure that my state remains open and available. I also request an analysis of the extent that this decision has on the management of all of our National Forests.

This ruling will potentially have significant consequences on all National Forests across the nation. This decision, so far, has brought to a halt many small projects and activities, including Christmas Tree cutting and other thinning measures, that have been properly excluded from some of the onerous and inefficient provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We cannot allow a judge in California to take away the tools the Forest Service uses to properly manage the land. You have my full support to reverse this judgment.

I again urge you to examine all options to appeal and overturn this decision. I am also working with my colleagues to develop legislative solutions to address this new risk to people, property, and the resources caused by the decision. I look forward to hearing from you and hope that we can find a fair and proper resolution to this matter.

Sincerely,



Craig Thomas  
United States Senator