

# Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District

237 Blackfoot Rd, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545  
(970) 881-3521

Larimer County Commissioners  
200 W. Oak Street, 2nd floor  
PO Box 1190  
Fort Collins, CO 80522-1190

To: Commissioner Tom Donnelly  
Commissioner Lew Gaither  
Commissioner Steve Johnson

The community of Crystal Lakes, which lies an hour northwest of Fort Collins and approximately five miles north of Red Feather Lakes, is served by a single county road. North County Road 73C is a well-maintained dirt road between Red Feather Village and Crystal Lakes, but deteriorates past that point. After NCR 73C enters the national forest northeast of Crystal Lakes, it becomes little more than a one-lane road broken by many sharp turns, which is often extremely rough (it is graded approximately once a year). The usual condition of NCR 73C to the northeast and the likelihood that two-wheel drive vehicles and vehicles hauling trailers will get stuck trying to traverse this road make it an unsafe evacuation route. All residents of Crystal Lakes, therefore, must plan to evacuate via 73C south to County Road 74E, passing through Red Feather Lakes to do so.


Crystal Lakes is a subdivision of more than 1600 lots, with a population that swells to over 5,000 in the summer, during the height of wildfire season. For a population of such a size to have only one viable evacuation route in case of wildfire is a clear threat to life and safety. That the single route which exists will cause evacuating residents to flood another community (Red Feather Lakes), which will likely also be in the throes of evacuation, adds to the threat and the number of people put at risk. Improving NCR 73C from the Tami Road entrance of the Crystal Lakes subdivision to County Road 80C, and CR80C from there to Highway 287, would not only create a safe evacuation route for Crystal Lakes property owners, but would act as an additional evacuation route for residents of the Red Feather Lakes area. Should a fire threaten County Road 74E near Red Feather Village, this route may in fact become the only way out for residents of either community.

We, the undersigned representatives of districts, businesses, and community associations in Crystal Lakes and Red Feather Lakes, strongly encourage the Larimer County Commissioners to pursue action to improve the condition of North County Road 73C and County Road 80C to turn this into a safe, easily passable evacuation route for residents of both communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

 \_\_\_\_\_, Fire Chief, Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

 \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President, Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District Board

 \_\_\_\_\_, Fire Chief, Red Feather Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

Harry L. Valente VICE President, Red Feather Lakes Fire Protection District Board  
Joe Burt, President, Crystal Lakes Road & Recreation Association Board  
C. Douglas Race, President, Crystal Lakes Water & Sewer Association Board  
Jadean J. Sandquist, Manager, Crystal Lakes Associations  
Bob Brown, President, Red Feather Lakes Property Owners Association  
Lee H. H., General Manager, Beaver Meadows Resort, Crystal Lakes  
W. P. P. (Wood Kidd), Library Director, Red Feather Lakes Library  
Steven Tackett, Lone Pine Realty, Crystal Lakes & Red Feather Lakes  
Jeffrey, Continental West Realty, Crystal Lakes & Red Feather Lakes  
Jan H., Summit Realty, Crystal Lakes & Red Feather Lakes  
Patricia McMillan, Red Feather Trading Post, Red Feather Lakes  
Judy L. Haynes, Red Feather Supermarket, Red Feather Lakes  
Barbara J. Blouge, Ramona Lake Cabins, Red Feather Lakes (& Crystal Lakes property owner)  
O, Plants of Distinction, Crystal Lakes & Red Feather Lakes