



The City and County of
Butte-Silver Bow Montana



Butte-Silver Bow Fire Department

Assistant Chief-Fire Marshal

120 South Idaho Street
Butte, MT 59701

January 13th, 2023

Tim Lahey
Butte District Ranger
1820 Meadowlark
Butte, MT. 59701

Dear Tim,

I'm writing in support to continue the fuel reduction efforts around The Basin Creek Watershed. Butte Silver Bow with the help of partners have begun the process to reduce the fuels around The Basin Creek Watershed. However, Butte Silver Bow only owns a narrow portion of land around the watershed.

It is very critical the fuels around the Basin Creek Municipal Watershed be addressed immediately. The fuel situation is a dire threat to the future of this water supply. This area has a vast amount of beetle killed lodgepole pine trees with fallen and standing dead trees. The terrain around the watershed has steep slopes and erodible massive soils. A wildfire would not only impact the water supply but also the jeopardize safety our fire fighters responding to this area.

The Basin Creek Municipal Watershed is the primary source of drinking water for the Butte area, supporting nearly 35,000 people. The Basin Creek Treatment Plant was completed in 2017 at a cost of over \$30 million and ensures that EPA standards are met for water treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important project.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Lee
Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

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