

Resilient Butte Steering Committee

January 13, 2023

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

Dear Tim,

I write on behalf of the Resilient Butte Steering Committee, which discussed the Basin Creek project proposal on January 9 and authorized me to write a letter of support on behalf of the steering committee.

The Resilient Butte Partnership is a community project initiated by the consolidated city-county government of Butte-Silver Bow, the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), and Montana Technological University. The partnership formed in 2022 and convened a 10-person steering committee to develop the Butte Sustainability, Health, and Resilience Plan (SHARP). The Plan will guide development of a local climate solutions plan that anticipates and prepares the community for climate-related disruptions, safeguards public health, and guides pursuit of economic opportunities in the emerging green energy economy.

One of our top climate adaptation priorities is to protect our municipal watersheds, most important of which is Basin Creek. Water conservation and watershed restoration are other important strategies that we have been discussing for inclusion in the plan. The steering committee is pleased that the Forest Service has initiated this planning process with the goal of reducing intensity of wildfires and increasing fire suppression effectiveness to improve protection measures for the surrounding communities and key municipal watershed infrastructure.

In our evaluation of the risks and impacts of the climate crisis in Butte Silver Bow, it is clear that the Basin Creek watershed will experience hotter, drier summers, increasing drought conditions, and the risk of catastrophic wildfire, all of which will increasingly be punctuated by more intense precipitation events and extreme weather driven by a warmer atmosphere. This project will help our community and USFS adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Thank you for initiating this project in the spirit of cooperation with Butte Silver Bow and other community partners. The Resilient Butte project is pleased to support the purpose, need and proposed treatments outlined in your scoping document

Best regards,



Steve Thompson
On behalf of the Resilient Butte Steering Committee
3040 Continental Drive
Butte, MT 59701