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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The purpose of this communication is to express my strongest possible support for the Butte Watershed Project that is being considered by the U.S. Forest Service.

For the record I am a lifelong resident of Butte and have a long record of service to the local governments. That record began in 1961 as the Director of Parks and Recreation, followed by my appointment as Director of Public Works for the combined Butte Silver Bow Government. These positions led to my appointment and election as Chief Executive of the Butte Silver Bow Government for a 12-year period ending in 1990.

In 1990 I became the Chief Executive and President of MSE, an engineering company that employed over 100 environmental engineers as well as an additional 200 support personnel. After my retirement in 2006 I continued my involvement with MSE as a member of the company's Board of Directors.

I point out my employment record to assure the U.S Forest Service that I have significant knowledge of the problems being experienced in the Butte Watershed Area. These problems present not only a significant but critical danger to the Butte Silver Bow community.

These problems include but not limited to the following:

60% of the communities' water requirements originate from this watershed and is not replaceable by any other source.

The Watershed is surrounded by beetle killed dead trees and pose an immediate fire threat to the water supply and homes in the area.

The forest conditions in the area are similar and would make it impossible to control a fire in the Watershed.

I urge the Forest Service to use all available resources to expedite portions of this project wherever possible .