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Organization: Headwaters RC&D Area Inc.

Title: Board Chair

Comments: I write this letter today in strong support of the Butte Watershed Project. This project is critical to the economic vitality of the community. This is a key source of drinking water for the community. Any fire or other negative impact to this resource would be devastating to the community. Other concerns include:

- 1.This watershed provides approximately 60% of the water to Butte and is not replaceable by other sources.
- 2.The watershed is surrounded by beetle killed trees and is at risk for a catastrophic wildfire.
- 3.The forest conditions in the region would make controlling fire in this area next to impossible, putting thousands of homes at risk throughout the region.
- 4.The opportunity to abate this risk also provides jobs in renewable forest products and potentially helps create new sustainable forest products.

Please give this project immediate attention and attempt to escalate its completion.