

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2023 6:00:00 AM

First name: Gavin

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The comment I feel to make is one of support. In the last few months during my classes at Snow College, I have heard from many agencies that do work on the Manti-La sal mountains and see the forest almost on the daily. I have learned of the dangers of stand-replacing fires and the effect they can have on the mountain and the communities below. A stand-replacing fire could wipe out almost all vegetation on the mountain. This will then leave the topsoil barren and left to be washed out by the rain and snow that falls. This could be detrimental to the watersheds, leading to massive flooding in the valleys. The precautions that the Forest Service desires to take regarding the Skyline Healthy Forests Restoration Act Project are wise in my opinion. I support the many methods they hope to use because I know that each area on the mountain has its own specific needs. Harvesting can be precise and can also be a benefit to the government. Mastication can leave good left over nutrients for the trees around. Prescribed burns can also create a natural resilience in the trees that make it out, leaving room for other natural vegetation to restart and replenish themselves. All of these will be a huge benefit for the Manti-La Sal forest.