

October 12, 2023

Ryan Nehl, Forest Supervisor
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Attention: Josephine

RE: Skyline HFRA Project

I am writing to express support for the Skyline HFRA Project located east and southeast of Spring City. I represent the city of Spring City (Spring City Corporation).

Our community has depended upon the resources provided by the multiple use of forest resources for nearly 175 years. Spring City was established in the early 1850s as part of the "Mormon" colonization of Utah. The settlement would not have survived without the resources provided by the mountain (forest designation came later). Resources provided included: timber for early homes and buildings, milled lumber as the community grew (logging and mills were some of the first activities of the community's residents), water from the mountain was an essential resource (culinary water and irrigation water), the grazing of livestock started almost immediately and has sustained an agricultural base for the community. These resources, especially water and grazing, continue to provide essential resources for the community and many of our citizens.

In the past fifteen to twenty years there has been an increasing concern about the management of the timber resource. The bark beetle infestation impacts our watershed. Spring City is deeply concerned that our water resources be protected. We have in operation 5 culinary water springs in the project area and are investigating the possibility of developing additional springs. We also would like the opportunity to improve the culinary springs now in use. One of the major concerns with our springs is access to the infrastructure related to the springs. Access has become more challenging over the years.

In addition, our community is concerned about downed dead fall timber clogging our creeks (both Canal Canyon and Spring City Canyon - or Oak Creek Canyon). We have a firm belief that the forest restoration project on the mountain east of Spring City will not only improve our water resources but also improve grazing and tourism. We believe this project will limit the possibility of flooding that could impact our culinary delivery system and harm the irrigation system.

We offer our support for the HFRA Project. It is long overdue. We look forward to the project as it progresses and anticipate a successful outcome for the beauty and utility of the forest and also the continuation of vital resources our community depends on. We have a wealth of local knowledge and experience that you could call upon for support of the “boots on the ground” experience.

Thank you.

Courtney Syme
Spring City City Council

Note: Michael Scotthorn of the Ephraim Utah Forest Service Office was most helpful in explaining the scope and purpose of the project. His professionalism was evident and appreciated. He is to be commended.