



James H. "Jim" Harvey
Commissioner
jharvey@WeberCountyUtah.gov

Scott K. Jenkins
Commissioner
sjenkins@WeberCountyUtah.gov

Charles James Ebert
Commissioner
jebert@WeberCountyUtah.gov

County Commission
Weber Center
2380 Washington Blvd.
Suite 360
(801) 399-8406
FAX (801) 399-8305
www.co.weber.ut.us

December 19, 2018

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director
Public Land Policy Coordinating Office
Office of the Governor
State of Utah

Re: Utah's proposal to create new forest management rules for USFS inventoried roadless areas.

Dear Director Clarke,

In response to your request for Weber County to consider the State of Utah's proposed roadless rule amendment for management of the United States Forest Service lands, we respectfully submit this letter of support.

We recognize that your office has asked Weber County to amend our recently adopted County Resource Management Plan in a manner that supports our desired forest designation category for each United States Forest Service area currently designated as a roadless area. We have been given a recommendation on this from both the Ogden Valley Planning Commission and the Western Weber Planning Commission and have held all of the necessary public hearings requisite to amending this plan.

After collecting all of the information and receiving public input we would rather avoid amending our planning documents until we have more definitive information regarding the management needs of the United States Forest Service and the State of Utah regarding the inventoried roadless areas in our County.

It is our understanding that after receiving the County's local desired management strategies, your office will verify whether they meet the mission of various State agencies. We further understand that after the State has made its final request to the federal government a similar process will occur at the federal level.

Based on this impending process, we are concerned that there may be variables beyond our current understanding and/or control that State and Federal agencies may be more adept at addressing. Without a comprehensive understanding of the best course of action, we believe that it would not be prudent to amend our formal planning documents at this time.

It is our position that the United States Forest Service should be vested with all tools necessary to protect and manage our local forests in a safe, healthy, and substantially undeveloped manner. We agree that temporary road building for forest management may very well assist in that endeavor on a very limited case-by-case basis. A better analysis of current forest health, along with current best management practices regarding mitigation if areas in poor health, would prove useful in helping us better understand the actual level of impact of the State's four proposed management categories.

With that in mind, we respectfully request that the management desires of the United States Forest Service and the State of Utah be presented for our review, with relevant science, data, and best management practices, prior to any formal decision being made on this matter.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,


Jim Harvey, Chair


Scott K. Jenkins, Vice Chair
Weber County Commission


James Ebert