



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2025

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Resolution for Active Forest Management, Nick Sandberg, Public Lands Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and Sign Resolution

SUMMARY

Active forest management on US Forest Service lands in Utah and in some degree in San Juan County (thinning, prescribed burning and timber harvest) have been hindered by regulation, special land designations, environmental litigation and institutional caution for decades. In some areas this has resulted in dense understory vegetation and dense forest stands creating overly dense fuel loads prone to ignition under drought and heat stress conditions. Under these conditions, wildfires have become larger and more destructive causing environmental, cultural, and property damage as well as public health and safety issues along with skyrocketing suppression costs. Last summer's Deer Creek Fire of over 17,000 acres is the most recent example of such a wildfire in San Juan County. This resolution urges the Forest Service to use all means available to restore or maintain healthy forest conditions to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

A similar resolution was passed by the Utah Five County Association of Governments in August this year.

FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown