



November 1, 2018

By email only ([kathleenclarke@utah.gov](mailto:kathleenclarke@utah.gov))

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

**Ben McAdams**  
Salt Lake County Mayor

**Erin Litvack**  
Deputy Mayor, County Services

**Rick Graham**  
Deputy Mayor, Operations

**Karen Hale**  
Deputy Mayor, Community  
& External Affairs

**Darrin Casper**  
Deputy Mayor, Finance  
& Administration

Re: State of Utah's Petition for Rulemaking to Establish New Management Provisions for Utah's Inventoried Roadless Areas

Dear Director Clarke:

Thank you for contacting Salt Lake County to request our participation in the Governor's Office of Public Lands Policy Coordinating's effort to submit a petition to the US Forest Service regarding new management provisions for Utah's Inventoried Roadless Areas.

As you know, the choices made today affect how residents and visitors enjoy this pristine Central Wasatch Mountains for years to come. My staff and I have spent countless hours engaging with the public on issues related to these mountains. While opinions vary, one thing is clear: our community is passionate about the mountains that surround the valley and are counting on us to listen to their perspectives to make the best possible decisions for the future of the Central Wasatch.

Based on public feedback and data that is currently available, I recommend no changes to the existing Roadless Rule regulation.

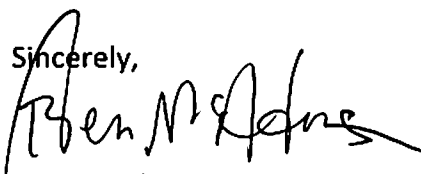
As is our practice at Salt Lake County, my decision required public feedback. With support from the Governor's Office, the US Forest Service, and Salt Lake City Public Utilities, my office hosted a public open house on October 23, 2018, to gather public comments on the Roadless Rule areas and possible recommendations. We spoke with many residents at this open house and read every single comment that was submitted. The overwhelming sentiment from the public is that no changes should be made to the current Roadless Rule regulation. My office has provided you with copies of all these comments for your record.

I want to emphasize that the timeframe given to us to make recommendations to your office was much shorter than many of the County's previous public engagement efforts related to the Central Wasatch Mountains. For instance, the revision of the Foothills, Canyons, and Overlay Zone (FCOZ) took almost four years to complete; and the revisions to our canyon general plans, which are still in progress, will have taken 18 months once completed. Both efforts include robust public engagement opportunities in person, over email, on websites and social media. In addition, Salt Lake County's Resource Management Plan that was adopted in 2017, took one year to complete. Adoption of that plan was only after many public open houses and stakeholder involvement and included a review of the US Forest Service's Roadless Areas. That plan recommends no changes in the Roadless Areas.

It is our understanding that if this petition is accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture, it would then require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We know the EIS is a strict and detailed process that requires public engagement as well as data analysis on potential impacts – positive and negative – of any proposed actions.

The EIS would provide answers to many questions such as how changes might impact our clean drinking water supply, and how temporary road building may affect our air quality. If and until this EIS proceeds, those impacts are not fully known at this time. I look forward to a future analysis that is grounded in data and evidence to better inform the Roadless Rule decision-making process.

Thank you again for reaching out to Salt Lake County. We look forward to further discussion with the community and all stakeholders to make the best decisions for the future of the Wasatch Mountains.

Sincerely,  
  
Ben McAdams  
Salt Lake County Mayor