

Output 1: LaVA Pre-treatment Checklist

Project:	Sourdough		District:	Brush Creek-Hayden
Partnership Project:	No	Primary Partner(s):		
Project Objective(s):	Reduce Wildfire Risk	Forest Products	Forest Health	
Accounting Unit(s):	West French			
Project Location	T15N R81W, S2-4, 10 & 11; T16N R81W, S20, 26-29, 33-35			
Management Area(s)	4.2, 5.13			
Data File Location(s):	T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\SO\1950LandscapeVegAnalysis\GIS\Implementation			

Project Description (narrative):

Purpose: Improve Forest Health and reduce fuel loading in vegetation immediately surrounding the community of Ryan Park. Vegetative treatments will include Clearcuts and Overstory Removal in forest stands that are predominantly Lodgepole pine. Forest stands along Barrett Ridge will include group selection treatments, leaving groups of trees while reducing ladder-fuels. Road reconstruction work is anticipated on FSR 210.1G, 231, 279, 279.2A and 279.3A

Desired Outcome:

1. Reduce fuels and create defensible space for wildland firefighting operations in lands adjacent to the Ryan Park community: Treatments will reduce ladder-fuels and open the canopy of tree stands adjacent to Ryan Park reducing the possibility of crown fire. Standing and down snags are occupational hazards to wildland firefighters. Removing these snags will reduce the hazard of personnel working in the area.
2. Healthy stands of trees resilient to forest pest and disease: Present stand conditions in Spool Timber Sale contain significant amount of Lodgepole pine mortality resulting from the Mountain Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) epidemic that decimated the Medicine Bow National Forest 2006-2010. Dead Lodgepole pine remains in stands as standing dead or has blown down and is now covering the forest floor. These stands also contain moderate levels of Lodgepole pine infected with Dwarf Mistletoe (*Arceuthobium americanum*). This plant parasitizes the trees living cambium and stunts tree growth. It then continues to infect the canopy of surrounding trees. These forest pest also weaken the trees ability to protect itself from other forest disease and insects. Treating these stands will promote a new cohort of trees with significantly less disease at desirable stocking levels.
3. Complimentary treatments on neighboring privately owned land: Stated treatments will compliment wildlife-urban interface vegetation treatments planned on neighboring private land. Wyoming State Forestry is working with private land owners in Ryan Park to implement fuel reduction treatments that will make efforts more effective across jurisdictional boundaries.
4. Reduced amount of snags posing threat to open national forest roads and private property: Treatments will clear hazard trees on FSR 210.1G, 279 and 321.

Challenges:

1. Sensitive soils requiring winter-only operations
2. Active raptor nest within treatment areas restricting time of operations to non-brooding periods.
3. State snowmobile trails present on planned haul route FSR 225

Post harvest, additional fuels mitigation work may be needed including prescribed fire, mechanical, and hand treatment methods.

For all “yes” answers below provide documentation on the next page.

YES	NO	Issue:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The treatment has the potential to affect long-term stream health. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 1).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment includes treatments meant to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 2).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment has the potential to alter wildlife security areas. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 3).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment occurs within a Lynx Analysis Unit or Linkage Corridor. (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 4 thru 9).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This treatment will utilize temporary roads to access treatment areas. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 10 and 11).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The treatment has the potential to affect public access thru improvements or closures on roads, trails, and/or developed sites? (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 13 and 14, and list the miles or sites in the narrative on page 3).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The treatment was brought forward or is primarily funded through a partnership source.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do any “yes” answers above result in a Yellow-Light Trigger?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do any “yes” answers above result in a Red-Light Trigger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is it likely that the proposed treatment will result in a deviation from any Forest Plan Guideline? (If yes, elaborate on the next page)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the proposed treatment impact the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail or a Wild and Scenic River? (If yes, describe length of trail/river affected, type of effects, and duration of effects on next page).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the proposed treatment, further Design Features are anticipated. (If yes, elaborate on next page).

Describe any Issues or Triggers from Page 2:

Cumulative Watershed Effects / Decision Trigger 1. Based on the intensity and magnitude of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities cumulative watershed effects have the potential to adversely affect long-term stream health in Barrett Creek (Yellow Light Trigger). Based on a field-based stream health assessment completed in April 2020, Barrett Creek was determined to be in a "Diminished" stream health class, with a high potential for degradation of stream health (Red Light Trigger). Project-specific design criteria are expected to address cumulative watershed effects as well as other resource concern (transportation system, snow course site, etc.) D.Gloss 4/17/20

Sourdough occurs in the French Creek LAU.

Lynx Decision Trigger 4 (Implementation will not convert more suitable habitat to an unsuitable condition in LAUs than addressed in the LaVA biological assessment): Sourdough harvest will convert 371 acres of suitable habitat to an unsuitable condition in the French Creek LAU. Adjacent Ryan Park Fuels treatments in fuels units 2, 3 and 4 will convert another 79 acres to currently unsuitable. It is expected that LaVA implementation will convert up to 3850 acres to a currently unsuitable condition in this LAU over the next 15 years. There are 3400 acres remaining to convert to currently unsuitable condition (3850-[371+79]). No decision trigger reached.

Lynx Decision Trigger 5 (Fuels treatments in LAUs that use WUI exemptions to Standards VEG S1 or VEG S2 will occur in the Kettle Ponds, Brush Creeks, Upper Sierra Madre, and Battle Creek LAUs only): Sourdough implementation will not use a S1 or S2 WUI exemption and occurs in the French Creek LAU. No decision trigger reached.

Lynx Decision Trigger 6 (Implementation will not convert more suitable lynx habitat to an unsuitable condition in LAUs over a 10-year period than addressed in the LaVA biological assessment): Sourdough harvest will convert 371 acres of suitable habitat to an unsuitable condition in the French Creek LAU. Adjacent Ryan Park fuels treatments described above will add 79 acres. Currently unsuitable habitat resulting from management in the last 10 years is 2127 acres, expected state and private unsuitable is 252 acres; so total unsuitable with Sourdough and Ryan Park fuels is 2829 acres (6.49%) in the last 10 years. Total allowable unsuitable for French Creek LAU over 10 years is 14.3% (6229 acres [2127+252+3850]). There are 3400 acres remaining (3850-450) to convert to currently unsuitable condition over the 10 years period. No decision trigger reached.

Lynx Decision Trigger 7 (Implementation will not result in more PCT in each LAU than the sum of the 1% proportion per lynx analysis unit, as addressed in the LaVA biological assessment and the wildland-urban interface exemption and exceptions [1%+WUI+exception]): No PCT is proposed under Sourdough. Pita PCT is 50 acres in French Creek LAU under Ryan Park CE. There are 385 acres available for future 1% PCT in French Creek LAU (435-50). No decision trigger reached.

Lynx Decision Trigger 8 (Implementation will not result in the use of more than 11,573 acres for WUI exemptions as analyzed in the biological assessment): Approximately 268 acres of clearcuts among units 4, 5, 11, and 12 will be treated under the WUI exemption for VEG S6 (removal of winter snowshoe hare habitat). There are also 45 acres removed under the Ryan Park WUI treatments. There are 11,260 acres of WUI exemptions remaining (11,573 - [268+45]). No decision trigger reached.

Lynx Decision Trigger 9 (Implementation will not result in the use of more than 2,893 acres for incidental damage exceptions as addressed in the LaVA biological assessment): There will be no incidental damage to winter hare habitat requiring the use of the exceptions for incidental removal. No decision trigger reached.

There is no old growth or security area in the harvest units.

The 90 acre nesting area for an active goshawk nest was excluded from treatment units. Surrounding foraging habitat not included in harvest units also provides the 200 acre Post-Fledging Area (Forest Plan p. 1-42).

No yellow or red light triggers will be reached for Decision Triggers 10 and 11 with this treatment as temporary road limits will not be approached.

Decision trigger 13/14- This project will affect groomed and ungroomed snowmobile trails during winter months. The following trails will be impacted: FSR 225 (groomed snowmobile trail) from HWY 130 to FSR 409 intersection. FSR 409 (ungroomed snowmobile trail) from FSR 225 intersection to FSR 321 intersection, and FSR 321 (ungroomed Snowmobile trail) from the 409 intersection to the community of Ryan Park. These trails will be unavailable during operations. This project is anticipated to be completed in 3 years. During this time FS will coordinate alternative routes with Wyoming State Trails. FSR 210.1G will also be closed to public for safety during harvest operations.

1. Do not place any temporary roads or landings within 100 feet of perennial or intermittent streams, or wetlands, unless approved on the ground by a hydrologist. (per DF-HWA-2, PHY_WAQ-S.4).
2. NFSR 279, 279.2A, 279.3A
 - a. Prior to, during, and after proposed activities, preclude public access to NFSR 279, 279.2A, 279.3A (per LaVA SOP, MON 8c).
 - a. After use, place Level 1 NFS Road 279 in storage for intermittent use as part of the timber sale road package (per FSH 7709.59, sec. 62.32 and Guidelines for Road Maintenance Levels 7700-Transportation Management 1177 1811-SDTDC June 2012). Including, a) preclude public and administrative access, b) emphasize no or low maintenance drainage facilities and runoff controls; c) remove culverts and fill from valley bottom; d) scarify travelways on Level 1 system roads to a depth of 2-4 inches and seed for erosion control.
3. NFSR 210.1G
 - a. For the portion of the road paralleling and within the Water Influence Zone of Barrett Creek (approx. 0.33 mile), apply additional measures to prevent erosion, contain sediment and control runoff.
 - b. For the portion of the road through the wetland, provide for dispersed flow across the road through the wetland (e.g. French drain) (per PHY-SOIL-S.2, PHY-SOIL-S.3; PHY_WAQ-S.4, PHY_WAQ-S.7)
4. If used as temporary roads for sale activities, decommission the following un-authorized routes: 225.1D, 1017kb, 1018kb, 1018kbTo_Pvt, 1019kb, 1020kb, 1021kb, 020602_210_3_G_001, 210_1g_Spur, 210.2G, 210_3G_Spur (per DF-RdEC-1, DF-RdEC-2, DF-RdEC-3 DF-RdCom-1).

District Ranger signature confirms all appropriate documentation for necessary pre-implementation items is attached and the treatment planning can proceed.

Approved By: Jason M. Armbruster
Digitally signed by Jason M. Armbruster
 Date: 2020.09.03 19:37:02 -06'00'

District Ranger

9/3/2020

Date