

Output 1: LaVA Pre-treatment Checklist

Project:	Spool GNA			District:	Brush Creek-Hayden
Partnership Project:	Yes	Primary Partner(s):	Wyoming State Forestry		
Project Objective(s):	Forest Products	Reduce Wilfire Risk	Forest Health		
Accounting Unit(s):	Jack Savery				
Project Location	T16N R87W Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27				
Management Area(s)	5.12, 5.13				
Data File Location(s):	T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\SO\1950LandscapeVegAnalysis\GIS\Implementation				

Project Description (narrative):

Purpose:

Spool GNA Timber Sale will be implemented as a good neighbor authority agreement between Wyoming State Forestry Division and the Forest Service. This sale was planned for implementation under the North Savery EIS and cutting units were identified Fall 2020. Some stands were identified as needing treatment that were not previously analyzed for harvest under the North Savery EIS but were analyzed for treatment under LaVA. Only the units not analyzed under North Savery EIS are discussed in this checklist.

All vegetative treatments will be clearcuts. Post harvest, additional fuels mitigation work may be needed. Activities, including prescribed fire, mechanical, and hand treatment methods, could be used to protect, restore and enhance forest ecosystem components; reduce wildfire risk to communities and municipal water supplies; supply forest products to local industries; and improve, protect, and restore wildlife habitat. Opportunities for the increased ingress/egress along primary forest roads would be increased, thereby enhancing public safety.

Desired Outcome:

1. 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 high levels of Lodgepole pine infected with Dwarf Mistletoe (*Arceuthobium americanum*). Treating these stands will promote a new cohort of trees with significantly less disease at desirable stocking levels.
2. Complimentary treatments on neighboring lands owned by State of Wyoming and Bureau of Land Management: Working with neighboring agencies allow the Medicine Bow National Forest to coordinate efforts across boundaries. This project will provide access to adjacent forested land allowing our partners to perform complementary treatments in adjacent stands. Coordinating treatment efforts allow us to implement more treatment than any one partner would be able to implement independently. This effort is critical when treating areas that are within forest transition zone, where pine forest vegetation types transition to pinyon-juniper and high desert vegetation types.
3. Reduce fuels and create defensible space for wildland firefighting operations

Challenges:

1. Extensive road reconstruction: This projects existing road system is in poor condition and is no longer continuous due to poor road locations. Road reconstruction and temporary roads will be needed to access most of the project.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

Project will not occur in lynx habitat or linkage corridor. Project will not occur in security areas or mapped old growth stands.

A known raptor nest, (WCGHN11C) is adjacent to the treatment area and a proposed treatment unit is within 0.25 miles of this raptor nest. WCGHN11C was checked in 2020, 2019 and 2016. It was not active any of these years. However, wildlife sign (feathers, whitewash) at nest site suggested nest was active in 2015. Nest will be surveyed in 2021 if harvest is not complete before nesting season.

No yellow or red light triggers will be reached for Decision Triggers 10 and 11 with this treatment.

Cumulative Watershed Effects: The disturbance index tracking or equivalent clearcut area (ECA) analysis completed for the LaVA project on February 12, 2019 (T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Program\2500Watershed\GIS\MB\Timber\LandscapeVeg\ECA_Overland\UpdatedECA_021219\ECA_021219.gdb), as summarized in LaVA Appendix A, was used. The following vegetation management projects are active or planned in project area watersheds and were not included in the 2/12/19 LaVA ECA analysis and therefore were added to the disturbance index by watershed: Bobber Timber Sale, Chum Timber Sale, Jig Timber Sale. Results are show in the table below (see attached hydro input). Based upon this information, a “Yellow Light” is reached for LaVA Decision Trigger #1 in McLain Creek (HUC7 10180002020102).

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 18:49:46 -06'00'

District Ranger

9/3/2020

Date