

## Output 1: Pre-treatment Checklist

<b>Focus Area:</b> Mullen Fence Replacement		<b>District:</b> Laramie Ranger District
<b>Partnership Project:</b> Yes	<b>Partner(s):</b> Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District	
<b>Accounting Unit:</b> French Douglas		<b>Accounting Unit:</b> Choose an item.
<b>Objective(s):</b> This project will meet four of the seven objectives of the LaVA project: #1 mitigate hazardous fuels; #4 protect infrastructure and municipal watersheds; #6 enhance access for forest visitors and permittees; and #7 provide for human safety.		
<b>Location Description:</b> This project is located in the 2020 Mullen Fire area, one to two miles west and southwest of Rob Roy Reservoir in the central Snowy Range.		
<b>Legal Location:</b> This project is located in Township 14 North, Range 79 West, sections 5, 6, 8, 9, and 16, 6th P.M., Albany County, Wyoming.		
<b>Management Areas:</b> This project is located in Forest Plan Management Area (MA) 5.15 (Forest Products, Ecological Maintenance, and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability).		
<b>Treatment Opportunity Areas:</b> This project is located in the Forest and Rangeland Resiliency and Forest Products Emphasis Treatment Opportunity Area (TOA). Most of the project also falls within the overlapping Fuels Treatment and Safety Emphasis TOA.		
<b>Pinyon Data Location(s):</b> <a href="https://usfs.box.com/s/sd2gtuib33y08hr3l0dqayz38gr7ad9o">https://usfs.box.com/s/sd2gtuib33y08hr3l0dqayz38gr7ad9o</a>		
<b>GIS Data Location(s):</b> T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\LaVA_Implementation\GIS\MullenFences\Data		

## Description of Preliminary Treatments (narrative):

In 2020, the Mullen Fire burned 176,878 acres on the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests in Colorado and Wyoming. About 60 miles of rangeland fences and natural boundaries were adversely affected. \$1.725 million in Disaster Recovery funds and an additional \$100,000 in Burned Area Rehabilitation funds were received by the Forest to rehabilitate range infrastructure. Funds were placed in an agreement with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) to facilitate the project. WDA subsequently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District (SERCD) to assist with implementation of the project.

A portion of this work will be covered by the LaVA project NEPA analysis. About 2.8 miles of wildlife-friendly, barbed wire fence and 0.4 miles of buck and rail fence will be constructed. Before construction of the barbed wire fence starts, vegetation in a variable corridor between 30 and 140 feet in width will be masticated or hand cut and chipped. The total area cleared will be about 46 acres. The purpose of the corridor clearing is to remove dead and down trees, reducing the risk of trees falling on the new fence and increasing difficulty of maintenance in the future. Green trees will not be removed except where they directly interfere with fence construction or pose a safety hazard. Vegetation will not be cleared adjacent to the new buck and rail fence, except as needed for fence construction or safety. No road construction, reconstruction, or maintenance is planned, nor will any temporary roads be needed. Existing open areas will be used for equipment and material storage.

*LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework*  
*Output 1: Pre-Treatment Checklist: Mullen Fence Replacement*

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

YES	NO	Issue:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments have the potential to affect long-term stream health. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 1).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments are designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 2).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments have the potential to alter wildlife security areas. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 3).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments are located in a Lynx Analysis Unit or Linkage Corridor. (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 4 thru 9).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments will use temporary roads. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 10 and 11).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments have the potential to affect public access. (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 13 and 14).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatments were 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 treatments will deviate from any Forest Plan Guideline? (If yes, elaborate on the next page)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will the proposed treatments affect 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 treatments, further Design Features are anticipated (If yes, elaborate on next page).

## Describe any Issues or Triggers from Page 2:

Following is an assessment of the preliminary treatments in relation to the Appendix A triggers. The analysis will be updated prior to completion of the Implementation Checklist, once the treatment units are field validated.

### Trigger 1

Pre-project Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) in Hydrologic Unit Code level 7 (HUC7) watersheds in the focus area ranges from 16.0% to 26.3%. Both HUC7 watersheds were substantially affected by the 2020 Mullen Fire. The Middle Douglas Ck watershed was also substantially affected by the 2017 Keystone Fire. This watershed has a 25% ECA threshold for the yellow-light trigger, which has been exceeded primarily because of recent fire effects. The Upper Douglas Ck HUC7 watershed has known stream health concerns; therefore, a 20% ECA threshold for the yellow-light trigger is applicable. Bear and Rambler Creeks in the Upper Douglas Ck HUC7 watershed are 303(d) listed for metals. The Mullen Fence Replacement project will not affect ECA because only burned, dead trees will be removed. The table below shows the existing condition, area available for treatment, and preliminary treatment areas for all HUC7 watersheds in the focus area.

Watershed Name	HUC7	Cumulative ECA (% of NFS lands)	Available under Yellow-Light Trigger (ECA acres)	Preliminary Treatment Area (ECA acres)
Upper Douglas Ck	10180002010401	16.0%	496	0
Middle Douglas Ck	10180002010402	26.3%	0	0

### Trigger 2

The Mullen Fence Replacement project was not designed specifically to improve wildlife habitats and will not be counted toward achievement of this trigger.

### Trigger 3

The Mullen Fence Replacement project will not affect wildlife security habitat because none is located in or near the preliminary treatment areas.

### Triggers 4-9

The Mullen Fence Replacement project is entirely in the Douglas Creek Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU), which is over yellow- and red-light thresholds for conversion of suitable lynx habitat to an unsuitable condition (Trigger 4) primarily because of the Mullen Fire. No WUI exemptions (Triggers 5 and 8) are available in the Douglas Creek LAU. Past management activities have not exceeded the yellow-light threshold for Trigger 6. No pre-commercial thinning (Trigger 7) is proposed. The proposed project will not affect suitable lynx habitat because we are only removing burned, dead trees, and treating only unsuitable habitat or non-habitat. Green trees that could contribute to suitable lynx habitat will only be removed incidentally (Trigger 9) when they directly interfere with fence construction or pose a safety hazard.

*LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework*  
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Triggers 10 and 11

No temporary roads will be used for the Mullen Fence Replacement project.

Trigger 13 and 14

The Mullen Fence Replacement project will not affect visitor experiences or access, nor is it expected to measurably affect dispersed recreation opportunities or public safety. All fence crossings of open roads will use existing or new cattle guards. Permittee satisfaction is expected to increase because fences will be easier to maintain and livestock control will be easier to achieve.

Other Supplemental Information

At this point in the Appendix A process, the need for additional design features is unknown. Additional design features may be needed to address issues that arise when the preliminary treatments are field validated. Additional design features, if any, will be added during preparation of the Implementation Checklist.

**District Ranger Approval/Review**

District Ranger signature confirms all appropriate documentation is attached and planning for the proposed treatment(s) can proceed.

**Approved By (District Ranger):** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Signature and Date:**