

Output 2: Implementation Checklist

Project: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels		District: Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District	
Partnership Project: Yes		Primary Partner(s): National Forest Foundation	
Accounting Unit: Sandy Battle		Accounting Unit: Choose an item.	
Objective(s): This project will meet all seven objectives of the LaVA project: #1 mitigate hazardous fuel loading; #2 provide for recovery of forest products; #3 enhance forest and rangeland resiliency to future insect and disease infestations; #4 protect infrastructure and municipal water supplies; #5 restore wildlife habitat; #6 enhance access for forest visitors and permittees; and #7 provide for human safety.			
Project Description: This project includes 467 acres of fuels treatment and aspen enhancement. The primary goal is to return aspen stands to a healthy state by removing decadent aspen and encroaching conifers, while also achieving secondary goals of reducing hazardous fuels and improving wildlife habitat. Merchantable material in accessible parts of the project area will be decked and sold. Non-merchantable material will be masticated or piled depending on size and distribution. Piles will be burned at the appropriate time after completion of cutting. No system or temporary roads will be used for vegetation treatments; however, both system and temporary roads could be used for deck sales.			
Location Description: This project is on the western slope of the Sierra Madre Range, north of Wyoming State Highway 70. Treatment units are located north of Wyoming Highway 70, east of the Savery Stock Drive (National Forest System Road [NFSR] 852), and south of the Belvidere Ditch.			
Legal Location: This project is in Township 13 North, Range 87 West, Section 7 and Township 13 North Range 88 West, Sections 11-14; 6 th Principal Meridian; Carbon County, Wyoming.			
Management Areas: This project is in Forest Plan Management Area (MA) 5.13 (Forest Products), MA 4.2 (Scenery), and MA 3.56 (Aspen Maintenance and Enhancement).			
Treatment Opportunity Areas: This project is located partially in the Scenery and Aspen Emphasis Treatment Opportunity Area (TOA), partially in the Forest and Rangeland Resiliency and Forest Products TOA, and partially in the overlapping Fuels Treatment and Safety Emphasis TOA.			
Pinyon Data Location(s): https://usfs.app.box.com/folder/349266839031			
GIS Data Location(s): T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\LaVA_Implementation\GIS\Sandstone\Data\2_Implementation\CutthroatFuels			

Available Treatment Acres from Record of Decision					
Stand Initiation:	77,203	Intermediate:	146,731	Other Treatment(s):	49,469

Project Treatment Acres					
Stand Initiation:	0	Intermediate:	467	Other Treatment(s):	0
Treatment Type	Acres	Treatment Type	Acres	Treatment Type	Acres
N/A	0	Shelterwood Seed (Aspen)	467	N/A	0

Management Areas			
Management Area	Treatment Acres	Management Area	Treatment Acres
3.56	193	4.2	169

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Management Areas			
Management Area	Treatment Acres	Management Area	Treatment Acres
5.13	106		

Wildlife Areas			
Security Area (Accounting Unit)	Treatment Acres	Lynx Analysis Unit	Treatment Acres
Sandy Battle	21	N/A	0

Specified Road Work (Type)	Miles	Temporary Road Miles Available	Project Temporary Road Miles	Balance of Temp Road Miles
N/A	0.0	543.3	1.0	542.3

All temporary road mileage is estimated. Actual road miles will be tracked during the monitoring phase.

Summary of How Public Feedback was Incorporated / Addressed:

No public feedback was received for the Sandstone focus area of the Cutthroat Fuels project.

Project Validation

Resource specialists have confirmed the project: a) meets applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines; b) is consistent with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), design features, Modified Final Environmental Impact Statement (MFEIS), and Record of Decision (ROD); c) surveys and fieldwork has been completed; and d) if necessary, provided any additional design features.

A set of standard design features are applied to each project prior to its implementation. Any additional project design features have been approved by the responsible official. The sections below list the design features by resource area.

Amphibians and Fisheries

Objective: Conserve populations of amphibian and fish species and maintain or improve habitats.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Keep heavy equipment out of streams during fish spawning, (May 15 to July 31 for cutthroat and rainbow trout, October 15 to November 30 for brook trout and brown trout). (DF-AF-1)	No	No streams will be crossed.
Install stream crossings as perpendicular to flow as practicable. (DF-AF-2)	No	No streams will be crossed.
In consultation with fisheries and timber staff, Forest Service resource specialists will locate, design, and designate any temporary road crossings of perennial streams. (DF-AF-3)	No	No streams will be crossed.
Avoid direct ignition in riparian and wetland areas; allow fire to back into these areas. (DF-AF-4)	Yes	
Use spill containment equipment if it is necessary to locate staging and refueling areas within water influence zones. (DF-AF-5)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Felled material or other debris with potential to block stream culverts or bridges will be removed from the high-water mark. (DF-AF-6)	Modified	Any felled material or other debris that falls into the Belvidere Ditch shall be removed as soon as possible, within the same work day. The purpose of this modification is to prevent obstruction of the ditch.
In consultation with fisheries staff, develop site-specific design criteria to ensure protection of boreal toad, wood frog, and northern leopard frog habitats and populations. (DF-AF-7)	Modified	Site specific design features were developed for treatment adjacent to the Belvidere Ditch. See Design Feature ADD-1 for additional information.

Heritage Resources

Objective: Protect cultural sites that need protection; fulfill National Historic Preservation Act requirements; and avoid, minimize, or mitigate unexpected adverse effects to heritage resources.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
National Historic Preservation Act compliance will be completed for each treatment area prior to implementation. This may include literature reviews, field surveys (if deemed necessary by the heritage specialist), and completion of State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal consultation. Surveys, reporting, and consultation may be conducted in accordance with a programmatic agreement. State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal consultation may result in additional cultural resource avoidance or protection measures. (DF-HR-1)	Yes	NHPA compliance is complete.
If cultural materials or human remains are discovered, all activities in the immediate area will stop, the area will be secured, and a Forest Service archaeologist and District Ranger will be notified immediately. Work will not resume in that area until the archaeologist has evaluated the material and notified the District Ranger that the applicable requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act have been completed. (DF-HR-2)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Site-specific measures to protect or enhance heritage resources will be determined at the time of treatment implementation. (DF-HR-3)	Yes	Resource restriction areas have been identified and incorporated in project design.

Hydrology and Wet Areas

Objective: Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns of wetlands to sustain their ecological functions.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Fens: Treatment will not occur in fens. In addition, fens will be protected by a 300-foot limited-action buffer in which heavy equipment use will be prohibited. (DF-HWA-1)	No	No fens were identified in the project area during field surveys.
Wet meadows: No operation of heavy equipment, prescribed fire control lines, or tree removal will occur in seasonally wet, herbaceous- or shrub-dominated wetlands, commonly referred to as wet meadows. Wet meadows may also contain trees but do not include aspen woodlands or riparian gallery forests. (DF-HWA-1a)	No	No wet meadows were identified in the project area during field surveys.
Wetlands, riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems: When treating within non-excluded wetlands (see above), riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems: (DF-HWA-2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict temporary roads, landings, or main skid trails as recommended by resource specialists and approved by the line officer; • Hand fall and leave in place; or • Treat with mechanized equipment over a combined surface of 12 inches of frozen ground and snow. 	No	No wetlands, riparian areas, or aquatic ecosystems were identified in the project during field surveys.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Water influence zone (WIZ): A buffer with a minimum horizontal width of 100 feet from the top of each stream bank or edge of wetlands will be applied to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, reservoirs, riparian areas, and wetlands. However, buffers may vary depending on the type of wet area and site conditions, as agreed upon by resource specialists. When treating buffers including the WIZ, equipment use is permitted; (DF-HWA-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If winter activities occur, the over-snow design feature (DF-SOIL-1) will apply. • Where feasible, avoid temporary roads, landings, main skid trails, or slash piles in the WIZ. • If the aforementioned are necessary in the WIZ, consult resource specialists. Prior to working in WIZ buffers, resource specialists will assess the need for site-specific design criteria for retention of coarse woody debris. 	Modified	WIZ buffers were modified adjacent to the Belvidere Ditch. See Design Feature ADD-1 for additional information.
Winching of trees across streams is prohibited. (DF-HWA-4)	No	No winching of trees is planned.

Infrastructure

Objective: To protect improvements and investments.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
All Forest Service authorized improvements (for example, fences, water improvements, survey monuments) will be protected during management activities. (DF-INF-1)	Modified	Any damage sustained to fences or stock ponds from project activities shall be repaired to the state they were in before project implementation. This design feature was modified to include repair of damage to infrastructure in addition to protection.
Slash piles should be removed as soon as practicable. If possible, locate all machine piles at least 100 feet from infrastructure. If possible, locate hand piles at least 50 feet from infrastructure. If it is not possible to meet the aforementioned distances, consult the zone fire staff or forest fuels specialist. (DF-INF-2)	Modified	No piles shall be constructed within 100 feet of stock ponds or fences. This design feature was modified to minimize the risk of damage to infrastructure from pile burning.

Invasive Weeds

Objective: Maintain ecological integrity by preventing the introduction and reducing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species in the project area. The following design features were developed to comply with the direction in the forest plan, Executive Order 13751 – Safeguarding the Nation from the Impacts of Invasive Species, and the USDA Forest Service guide to noxious weed prevention practices.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Cleaning of equipment: Require equipment to be cleaned of mud and plant debris and inspected before vehicles are moved into the project area to prevent introduction or spread of noxious or invasive weed species. (DF-INV-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Vegetation treatments: Manage vegetation treatments to promote native species and to hinder weed species germination. Prior to implementation, field conditions will be assessed to locate areas with existing infestations of weeds. Areas may be excluded from prescribed burning where there are infestations of fire-proliferating species (cheatgrass and musk thistle). Weed-infested areas included in burns, except for annual grasses, will be treated with appropriate herbicides or other control methods, as needed, to minimize the spread of weed species pre-treatment, post-treatment, or both. (DF-INV-2)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Seeding: On sites where the probability of erosion or weed infestation is high, disturbed areas will be seeded with an appropriate mix of native plant species per the “Guidelines for Revegetation for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands” (signed 2007, as updated). Areas may not need to be seeded where duff or slash cover the ground, or where natural revegetation is expected to occur quickly. The intent is to intervene only if necessary to establish effective ground cover to control erosion, prevent weeds, and meet scenic objectives. (DF-INV-3)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Imported materials: All materials imported from off-forest (erosion control materials, soil, mulch, etc.) will be certified weed-free or from a weed-free source or area. Forest-level source material (gravel pits and borrow areas) used for individual treatments will be inspected prior to use to inventory noxious weed presence and treated with herbicide as needed. If inspections cannot occur before implementation, identify where the material came from and monitor for noxious weed presence. (DF-INV-4)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Old Growth

Objective: To maintain or enhance old forest across the landscape.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
If treatment in old growth is planned, replacement acres will be identified prior to implementation, per Forest Plan biological diversity standard 1. Vegetation management can be conducted in these stands if treatments maintain or promote characteristics of old growth stands, new stands are identified that meet the requirements of old growth, and these stands are incorporated into the Medicine Bow National Forest old-growth strategy. Treatment of old growth is prohibited in Forest Plan MA 5.15. (DF-OG-1)	No	No old growth in project area.

Public Safety

Objective: To provide safe conditions for administrative operations and public use.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Forest Service personnel will provide advanced notice to the public if roads are temporarily closed during project activities. Alternate access routes may be identified. Forest Service personnel will work cooperatively with the applicable federal, state, county, and local governments to post road closure information. Traffic control will comply with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (DF-PS-1)	Modified	In addition to notifying the public, WYDOT will be notified when activities near Highway 70 have the potential to cause chips, slash, or other materials to enter the roadway. This measure was modified to ensure notification of all potentially affected entities.

Rangeland Resources

Objective: Maintain grazing opportunities on suitable rangelands to achieve desired conditions. Desired condition includes emphasis on healthy native plant communities, minimizing noxious weeds and other non-native species.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Treatment opportunities must be coordinated with Forest Service rangeland management specialists to provide adequate time to plan changes in grazing management and to limit effects to allotment management and permittee operations. (DF-RNG-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Rare Plant Species and Sensitive Ecosystems

Objective: Maintain ecological integrity and functioning of uncommon, sensitive, or otherwise vulnerable ecosystems. Protect populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and pollinator species and maintain viability of all plant species in the project area. The follow design criteria were developed to comply with the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan, meet the requirements of the National Forest Management Act and 2012 Final Planning Rule, and conform to the policy described in Supplement 2600-2017-1 to the Forest Service Manual 2600 – Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management, Chapter 2670 – Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants and Animals.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Rare plants: Threatened, endangered, Rocky Mountain Region sensitive, and local concern plant species will be subject to a limited-action buffer (typically 30 to 100 feet) in which heavy equipment will be prohibited and other activities may be limited, unless otherwise agreed upon by the botanist and District Ranger. Specific buffer distances will depend on plant and habitat characteristics and will be determined at time of discovery. (DF-TESS-1)	Yes	One identified rare plant was buffered and excluded from the treatment units.
Meadows: Use of heavy equipment is prohibited in meadows and grasslands unless no other option is available. If heavy equipment use cannot be located outside these areas, Forest Service resource specialists will be contacted prior to implementation to determine whether additional surveys are needed, or special requirements are warranted to protect site integrity. (DF-TESS-2)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Pollinators: In consultation with Medicine Bow National Forest resource specialists, conduct vegetation management activities in a manner that protects or enhances pollinator habitat. The pollinator-friendly best management practices for Federal lands (draft, May 2015 or finalized version) will be used as a guide. (DF-TESS-3)	Yes	No special measures necessary.

Recreation

Objective: Maintain or improve the condition of recreation resources while enhancing recreation opportunities by improving public safety and accessibility around recreation features.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Remove operational slash and merchantable materials from developed recreation sites that are the direct result of logging the site. (DF-REC-1)	No	No developed recreation sites in the project area.
Do not implement treatments in developed campgrounds during the highest periods of use or when damage to campground features is likely to occur due to snow depth. If treatments require implementation during snow cover or high use periods, coordinate with recreation staff to minimize conflicts with recreation use and damage to infrastructure. (DF-REC-2)	No	No developed campgrounds in the project area.
Temporary road or skid trail crossings of designated trails will be kept to a minimum. Any crossings will be perpendicular to designated forest trails to the extent practicable. (DF-REC-3)	No	No designated trails in the project area.
Minimize overlaying skid trails or haul roads on nonmotorized system trails. If trails are used as skid trails or haul roads, they will be returned to pre-existing conditions. Trail widths will not be increased. (DF-REC-4)	No	No non-motorized system trails in the project area.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
When activities preclude use of a nearby trail, a) notify the public; b) consider identifying timeframes for safe travel on the trail; c) if activities are expected to preclude use for more than one season and a detour is feasible, provide a detour; and d) place warning signs on all trail access points and along the trail where treatment activities are occurring. (DF-REC-5)	No	No trails in the project area.
Unauthorized user-created routes within treatment boundaries may be decommissioned to discourage continued, illegal motorized use and to offset effects to resources. (DF-REC-6)	Yes	No unauthorized user-created routes have been identified in the project area; however, any routes found during implementation can be rehabilitated.
To the maximum extent possible, alternate route(s) or detours will be used during implementation to allow continued use of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and to mitigate scenery management effects during vegetation management operations. (DF-REC-7)	No	The CDNST does not cross the project area.
No skidding is allowed on or across the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail without prior coordination with recreation staff. Any skidding on or across the trail will be located to limit damage to the trail, which will be returned to pre-treatment conditions. (DF-REC-8)	No	The CDNST does not cross the project area.
Coordinate with recreation staff if vegetative treatments are planned on or adjacent to off-highway vehicle trails. Off-highway vehicle trails will be returned to pre-existing conditions. (DF-REC-9)	No	No off-highway vehicle trails in the project area.
Coordinate with recreation staff if winter operations are planned on snowmobile trails. (DF-REC-10)	Yes	No winter operations are planned. Highway 70 is a groomed snowmobile route. NFSR 852 is an ungroomed snowmobile route.
Design and implementation of vegetative treatments or associated activities (for example, access routes, staging, etc.) within MA 8.22 Ski Based Resorts – Existing and Potential) shall be coordinated with the Forest Service ski area permit administrator to ensure compatibility with current and potential recreational opportunities. (DF-REC-11)	No	No MA 8.22 in the project area.

Scenic Resources

Objective: To provide high-quality scenery while allowing multiple-use management to occur.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
In all treatment areas, follow general direction and associated standards and guidelines in the “Scenery Management” section of the Forest Plan (pages 1-56 to 1-58). (DF-SCN-1)	Modified	No piles shall be constructed within 100 feet of Highway 70 or 50 feet of NFSR 852.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Along scenic byways, burned slash piles will be rehabilitated, if needed, within four years of the activity to eliminate the appearance of uncharacteristic disturbance. (DF-SCN-2)	Yes	Highway 70 is a scenic byway.

Soils

Objective: Minimize disturbances to soil properties (physical, chemical, and biological) to ensure inherent ecological capacity and hydrologic functions of the soil resources are maintained.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
When activities are planned over snow or frozen ground: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct activities when frozen soil is more than 4 inches deep or snow or a combination of compactable snow and frozen soil is more than 12 inches thick. Snow quality should be such that it will compact and form a running surface for equipment by being moist and non-granular. (DF-SOIL-1) • Additional site-specific design features may be developed to minimize resource concerns. 	Yes	No winter activities are planned.
Prohibit soil-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 60 percent and on soils susceptible to high erosion and geologic hazard. Site-specific design features will be developed if these areas cannot be avoided. (DF-SOIL-2)	No	No slopes greater than 60 percent, highly erosive soils, or geologic hazards were identified during field surveys in the treatment units.
For mechanical treatments, maintain a minimum 60 percent effective ground cover across treatment units throughout the implementation period to provide long-term organic matter, nutrients, and erosion control. (DF-SOIL-3)	Modified	In addition to ground cover requirements, masticated material should be kept to a depth of four inches or less to allow re-growth of vegetation.
Site-specific design features will be developed if treatment activities include operation of heavy equipment on slopes greater than 40 percent. (DF-SOIL-4)	No	No sustained slopes greater than 40 percent occur within the project area.
Designated skid trails will be used, when applicable, during timber harvest. Designated skid trails are recommended if more than three passes over the same ground are necessary or when not on flat ground. Designated trails are not necessary when harvesting over frozen ground, snow, or both. (DF-SOIL-5)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Where feasible, skid trails and landings from past harvests will be used to minimize new soil disturbance. (DF-SOIL-6)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Equipment operation shall not occur when ground conditions are such that extensive damage will result. If ruts develop that are six inches deep and 30 feet long or more, activities should stop. (DF-SOIL-7)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Temporary Road Construction, Landings, and Skid Trails

Objective: To decompact compacted soil in the temporary road surfaces, restore natural drainage, and prevent unauthorized motorized use after vegetation management.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Erosion Control: Recontour temporary road template to the original contour to permit normal maximum flow of water. (DF-RdEC-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Erosion Control: Remove culverts, install water bars, and restore stream channels to near natural dimensions. (DF-RdEC-2)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Erosion Control: For the entire length of the temporary road, provide 35 percent to 65 percent ground cover by scattering debris on the route footprint. Ground cover range is provided to account for different harvest methods and project objectives. (DF-RdEC-3)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Compaction: Rip or otherwise roughen the length of the temporary road prism to eliminate compaction, ensuring an average depth of 6 to 12 inches, as needed. Avoid continuous furrow lines as they function as conduits for water transport and do not eliminate compaction within the entire prism. (DF-RdCOM-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Visuals and Motor Vehicle Access: Temporary road rehabilitation methods will be designed to effectively prevent motorized vehicle use by utilizing berms, boulders, slash, mulch, dead trees, or a combination. The obliteration method(s) selected will cover the temporary road for the sight distance from its origin. For the entire length of the temporary road, provide 35 percent to 65 percent ground cover by scattering debris on the route footprint. (DF-RdVis-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Timing: Complete rehabilitation of temporary roads will occur within three years after the vegetation management treatments have been completed. (DF-RdT-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Timing: Skid trails and landings will be rehabilitated as needed to minimize soil and hydrologic effects. Site-specific measures will be developed at time of implementation. (DF-RdT-2)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Wildlife

Objective: Conserve populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and maintain or improve wildlife habitats.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
General: Vegetation management and ground-disturbing actions within ¼ mile of suitable goshawk nesting habitat will be surveyed using the accepted protocol (Joy et al. 1994) between June 19 and August 4 of the year prior to actions or the year actions are expected to occur. Where active nests or territories are identified, Forest Plan standards will apply (USDA 2003a). (DF-WILD-1)	No	Surveys were completed. No known nests in the project area.
Migratory Birds: Outside the wildland-urban interface, vegetation management actions will be designed to retain or promote unique features for overstory and understory diversity if feasible. These features can include items such as snags, uncommon trees, or woody debris. (DF-MB-1)	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse: No treatment will occur in the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse Area of Influence (766 acres) that occurs in the LaVA project area, located adjacent to the upper Laramie River in the southeast corner of the Fox Wood accounting unit. This area occurs within Township 13 North, Range 77 West, section 33 and Township 12 North, Range 77 West, section 4. (DF-PM-1)	No	The project area is outside the Area of Influence for the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prioritize treatment in Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat to manage conifer invasion in shrublands and manage over-mature (more than 40 percent canopy cover) mountain shrublands, especially Gambel oak. Prioritize treatment on ridges, mesas, and other flat topography. (DF-CS-1)	No	No habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in the project area.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescriptions can treat up to 20 percent of over-mature sagebrush shrublands. Individual treatment areas can vary up to two to 10 hectares. Prioritize treatment in over-mature stands (more than 40 percent canopy cover). Retain some over-mature stands within 400 meters of leks. (DF-CS-2)	No	No habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in the project area.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescriptions can treat up to 30 percent of over-mature mountain shrublands, focusing on Gambel oak. Individual treatment areas can vary up to 20- to 100-hectare patches. Future treatments can occur at 5- to 10-year intervals in remaining stands. Where mountain shrublands comprise less than 15 percent of the area, prescriptions can treat up to 10 percent of the over-mature mountain shrublands with subsequent treatments at 10- to 15-year intervals. Treatment areas can vary up to 2- to 10-hectare patches. (DF-CS-3)	No	No habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in the project area.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescribed fire can occur before April 15, during September if there will be substantial early fall snow to cover treated areas, or after September. (DF-CS-4)	No	No habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in the project area.

LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
 Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Treated areas should be rested from livestock grazing for one to two growing seasons unless mountain shrubs have resprouted sufficiently and grass and forb cover is adequate for long-term habitat productivity. If mountain shrub and grass and forb response is not adequate, additional measures such as adaptive livestock management or temporary fencing can be adopted until recovery occurs. (DF-CS-5)	No	No habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in the project area.

* Design criteria for shrubland treatments within two kilometers (1.24 miles) of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks (based on Hoffman and Thomas 2007 and Hoffman et al. 2015).

Additional Design Features

Objective: To provide additional, site-specific protection for resources not identified elsewhere in the checklist.

Design Feature	Describe purpose and rationale for the added design feature.
<p>ADD 1 – Erosive Soils, Geologic Hazards, and Sensitive Species</p> <p>The following site-specific design features apply to treatments adjacent to the Belvidere Ditch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mechanical equipment is allowed within 50 feet of the top of the bank of the ditch. Equipment can reach in to cut or lift out material, but not skid (no ground disturbance). • Hand thinning is allowed up to the top of the bank of the ditch. • Trees should be felled away from the ditch and bucked so that they do not enter the ditch. • Within 50 feet of the top of the bank of the ditch, thin live healthy trees to 10-foot spacing. Leave tree species preference in order from most to least desirable: aspen, spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine. Leave trees should have a DBH greater than 5 inches. • Machine piles and hand piles should be placed at least 100 feet from the top of the bank of the ditch. 	<p>This design feature was added to minimize risk of introducing sediment into the Belvidere Ditch and to minimize the risk of adverse effects to the population of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the ditch, while improving forest health, modifying fuels, and reducing the risk of large-scale, high-intensity wildfire.</p>
<p>ADD 2 – Access Routes and Staging Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staging areas are limited to designated locations shown on the project map. • Access routes and staging areas shall be scarified to a depth of 6 to 12 inches so that at least 65% of the surface is de-compacted and then seeded. • Within 300 feet or sight distance of any junction with open roads, obliterate access routes with a combination of ripping, recontouring, seeding, and scattering slash. 	<p>This design feature was added to address resource protection requirements and rehabilitation of access routes and staging areas, including de-compacting soils, restoring natural drainage, and preventing unauthorized motorized use.</p>

*LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels*

Design Feature	Describe purpose and rationale for the added design feature.
<p>ADD 3 – Road Package FS engineers will determine the type and extent of road maintenance or reconstruction needed for use of NFSR 841 (Guard Station) and produce a road package if needed.</p>	<p>This design feature was added to ensure proper maintenance, use, and closure of this stored (maintenance level 1) system road.</p>
<p>ADD 4 – Winter Operations Use of Wyoming State Highway 70 and NFSR 852 is prohibited between December 1 and April 15 annually, unless otherwise agreed to in advance by the US Forest Service responsible official. Request for use of Wyoming State Highway 70 or NFSR 852 during the restricted period must be received before September 1 annually.</p>	<p>Many summer access routes on the Forest are used as designated snowmobile routes during the winter months. If winter operations are planned, additional coordination is needed between the US Forest Service, WYDOT, and purchaser / operator to identify alternative snowmobile routes and to notify Wyoming State Trails and snowmobile users of the changes.</p>

Review and Approval

The US Forest Service Project Manager, Partner Project Manager (if applicable) and LaVA Implementation Coordinator will review the checklist and supporting documentation to confirm the project has been designed consistent with the MFEIS, ROD, and Appendix A. They will confirm the SOPs and design features, including any additional, project-specific design features, are correctly applied to the project.

The District Ranger will review the checklist and supporting documentation. By signing this checklist, the ranger confirms that this project is within the scope of the analysis in the MFEIS and ROD, including the SOPs and design features in Appendix A.

Reviewed By US Forest Service Project Manager: Abigail Walther

Signature and Date: ABIGAIL WALTHER  Digitally signed by ABIGAIL WALTHER
Date: 2026.04.22 11:28:18 -06'00'

Reviewed By Partner Project Manager: Carter Kinkead

Signature and Date: Carter Kinkead  Digitally signed by Carter Kinkead
Date: 2026.04.27 08:08:39 -06'00'

Reviewed By LaVA Implementation Coordinator: Matt Schweich

Signature and Date: MATTHEW SCHWEICH  Digitally signed by MATTHEW SCHWEICH
Date: 2026.04.22 10:50:19 -06'00'

Approved By District Ranger: Sevi Shperun

Signature and Date:

- Approve proceeding with the project. All resource concerns have been mitigated as recommended and the project is within the effects analyzed.
- Approve proceeding with the project. Resource concerns could not be mitigated fully but the project is still within the effects analyzed. Justification for proceeding is included in supplemental information.
- Do not proceed with the project. Conditions since initialization of the project have changed substantially and need to be reassessed. Justification is attached.

Project Modifications Developed During Review and Approval

- Design feature DF-AF-6 was edited to clarify that any debris that falls into the Belvidere Ditch shall be removed in the same work day.
- Design Feature DF-INF-1 was modified to state that any damage sustained to fences or stock ponds from project activities shall be repaired to the state they were in before project implementation.
- Design Feature DF-INF-2 was modified to state that no piles shall be constructed within 100 feet of stock ponds or fences.

*LaVA Project MFEIS – Appendix A: Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework
Output 2: Implementation Checklist: Sandstone Focus Area – Cutthroat Fuels*

- Design Feature DF-SCN-1 was modified to prohibit construction of piles near Highway 70 and NFSR 852.
- Design Feature DF-SOIL-1 was changed to applicable because, although winter operations are not planned, they could be considered in the future.
- Design Feature ADD-2 was modified to include reference to designated staging areas.
- Design Feature ADD-4 was added if winter operations are requested.